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LD1701134389 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Territories Violence—Nine Palestinians died 13-16 January as a result of wounds sustained in clashes with the IDF, according to Israeli radio and television reports. Most of the victims were teenagers. Over 40 others were wounded in various disturbances during the same period and the IDF imposed curfews on refugee camps throughout the Gaza Strip.

Commenting on the continuing cycle of violence, Jerusalem television noted that the number of dead and wounded has risen in the wake of the use of plastic bullets and a new type of rubber bullet.

London Bomb Attempt—A package containing explosives arrived at the Israeli Embassy in London 16 January, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the explosives were safely detonated.

Reaction to UK-PLO Talks—A meeting between British Foreign Office Minister of State William Waldegrave and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat caused "disappointment" in Israel, the Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in a statement carried by Jerusalem radio.

Israel's ambassador in London "sharply criticized" Waldegrave for the meeting and for his "outspoken advice" to Israel warning of the consequences of refusing to confer with the PLO, the radio noted. The ambassador claimed that nothing has really changed within the PLO beneath the veneer of its "charm offensive."

Reporting on Waldegrave's remarks after the 13 January meeting with 'Arafat, the radio noted his contention that since the current Israeli prime minister was himself at one time involved in terrorism, it is "historically illogical" for Israel to refuse to talk with the PLO on account of its terrorist record.

Chemical Weapons Issue—In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio 17 January, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned Arab states that whoever dares to use chemical weapons (CW) against Israel "will be clobbered 100 times, if not more."

Israel will not tolerate even thinking about the use of such weapons against it, he added. In this regard, Rabin stressed that Israel considers Libya to be one of its "most dangerous potential enemies."

The radio also broadcast Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' view that the involvement of German companies in supplying equipment for Libya's CW plant is "abhorrent" to Israel.

Satellite—Ofeq-1, Israel's first satellite, reentered the earth's atmosphere and burned up 14 January following 4 months in orbit during which "all its systems operated perfectly," Jerusalem television reported.

PLO Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat began a 2-day visit to Finland 16 January, Helsinki radio reported, noting that his talks with Finnish leaders were held in an "extremely friendly" atmosphere.

Following 'Arafat's earlier meeting with British official William Waldegrave, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio viewed as "extremely important" Waldegrave's warning that Israel will find itself isolated if it does not seize current opportunities for peace.

The European stand is entering a "new phase of understanding," the radio asserted, and Israel is left with "no further margin for maneuvering."

The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis over the weekend and decided to postpone discussion on the formation of a provisional Palestinian government until mid-February, INA noted.

In Cairo, Arab diplomatic sources cited by MENA predicted that 'Arafat will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Riyadh "soon" in a move aimed at eliminating differences between the PLO and Syria.

Comment on Pan Am Crash

A former Mosad officer told a Scottish newspaper that Abu Ibrahim's "May 15" organization was responsible for the Pan Am crash at Lockerbie, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

He said this is the only Palestinian group with the expertise to carry out such attacks, contending that Abu Ibrahim spent 5 years perfecting the device which exploded over Lockerbie. The group has only up to 30 operatives and is based in Baghdad, the Israeli stated.

In another development, the clandestine Al-Quds radio broadcast a magazine interview with PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril in which he denied any involvement in the Pan Am crash and advised the U.S. Administration against carrying out any "reckless action" against his organization.

Regarding the recent arrest in the FRG of a PFLP-GC member found in possession of explosives and a barometric detonator, Jibril claimed that the man had been tasked with pursuing Mosad agents and had been "expressly instructed to refrain from any act that could put civilian lives at risk."

Al-Quds radio was one of several Arab radio stations which highlighted a claim that the Jewish Defense League was responsible for the Pan Am crash. The UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD claimed that FRG investigators are "certain" that Mosad was responsible for the crash, according to WAKH.

Lebanon

Clashes resumed between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in southern Beirut 16 January, leaving two dead and five wounded, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio also reported intermittent fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Syrian troops intervened to stop an Amal-Hizballah clash at Suhmur, in the southern part of the Al-Biqa' Valley, Jerusalem radio noted. The Syrians reportedly blew up four Hizballah positions.

The continuing Amal-Hizballah tension followed the explosion of a car bomb near a Hizballah demonstration in southern Beirut 13 January. Seven people were killed and 15 others injured in the blast, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

On the political level, a Hizballah official cited by IRNA said his side agrees with the need for an "immediate and unconditional cease-fire" followed by discussions with Amal aimed at finding a fundamental solution to the conflict.

Referring to proposals by the Ja'farite mufti for a local agreement to end the clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the official stressed that "minor withdrawals" from a number of villages will not solve the basic problem.

Hizballah officials likewise told Shi'ite theologian Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din that the problem is not the present situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah but is "Amal's insistence on wiping us out," according to Voice of the Oppressed, a pro-Hizballah clandestine radio station.

An Amal official cited by Voice of Lebanon radio called on Iran to dissolve Hizballah because the latter is "playing an Israeli intelligence game."

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on JANA—The JANA news agency is "useless" and should be "abolished," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a 16 January speech broadcast by Tripoli television.

Describing JANA as a "huge octopus" that never reports news on time and is "timid and ignorant," Al-Qadhdhafi said the 400-strong organization should be replaced by a small group of 10 people using modern communications equipment.

He also called for the abolition of the security service, the national sports organization, and a number of other state bodies, stressing his desire to abolish "all" state institutions and establish a genuinely "popular" regime.

However, Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that his recommendations must be adopted democratically through the people's congresses, as "it is the people who should rule."

U.S. Airman—The body of the U.S. airman shot down in April 1986 was handed over to a papal representative during a 13 January ceremony at Col al-Qadhdhafi's house in Tripoli, JANA reported. A Libyan aircraft subsequently transported the body to Rome.

The body of a second U.S. airman killed during the U.S. "aggression" has not been found, JANA noted.

Egypt

The arrest of Islamic fundamentalists by security forces has resumed, according to a 14 January AL-WAFD report. The newspaper went on to note that 13 people were arrested in an Alexandria mosque and more than 100 were arrested in various parts of Cairo and the provinces.

The newspaper also reported the discovery of a new religious organization, "The Reformation of the Jihad Organization", which aims to overthrow the government and to conduct "terrorist" operations.

Saudi Arabia

A British newspaper report that the Saudi intelligence service is to be overhauled following "infiltration by a pro-Iranian group" was described by a "responsible source" as having "no truth whatsoever," Riyadh radio reported 14 January.

Iraq

POW's Release—A Foreign Ministry memorandum to the International Red Cross announced Iraq's decision to release 255 Iranian POW's, Baghdad radio reported.

New Parties—A referendum is to be held at an unspecified date on the formation of new political parties, according to INA.

Iran

Musavi Tour—Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi held talks with his Italian counterpart Ciriaco de Mita in Rome 16 January, Rome radio reported, noting that De Mita reaffirmed his country's commitment to help reconstruct the Iranian economy.

Musavi will visit Poland 17 January, PAP revealed, and the Polish side sees "large possibilities" for greater trade exchange.

Cooper Article—KEYHAN published an article by imprisoned Briton Roger Cooper reviewing Iranian-British relations, IRNA reported. Cooper stressed that if Iran seeks to export its revolution, "hawks" will prevail in Britain's Foreign Office; however, if Iran stops its "adventurism" abroad and concentrates on reconstruction, Britain will follow the same neutral policy adopted by Japan and most Western European states.

Drug Executions—Fifty-six drug smugglers were hanged 16 January, IRNA reported, adding that this high number of executions signifies the authorities' determination to wipe out the narcotics problem.

Afghanistan

Shevardnadze Visit—The USSR will continue its support for the Kabul government while seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze affirmed in an interview reported by TASS during his visit to Kabul over the weekend.

He pointed out that the door for contacts between Kabul, Moscow, and the opposition remains open but warned that the Afghan Government will react if war is "forced" on it. He went on to note that Pakistan "can do a very great deal" to restore peace and to ensure a nonaligned Afghanistan and declared that the USSR is ready to improve relations with Pakistan to that end.

Commenting on the visit, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Soviet military withdrawal will not solve the Afghan problem completely, according to Islamabad radio.

He warned that the USSR may continue its military supplies to the Kabul regime after the withdrawal of its troops but affirmed Pakistan's wish for a comprehensive political settlement.

In Moscow, IZVESTIYA political observer Aleksandr Bovin, speaking in a televized discussion program, described the decision to send troops to Afghanistan as a "mistake" and "we are now reaping the fruits of that."

Military Situation—"Extremists" fired four missiles at residential areas of Kabul 16 January killing five persons and wounding eight others, Kabul radio reported. Meanwhile, about 200 "criminals" were "crushed" in Nangarhar Province and 64 killed in other provinces, according to the radio.

On the other hand, Islamabad radio reported that the mujahidin have captured the Gowshtah area of Nangarhar.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Asad, 'Arafat To Meet in Riyadh 'Soon'

NC1501132989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will meet in Riyadh soon within the framework of preparations for the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Saudi Arabia. They will also discuss future Palestinian-Syrian relations in light of the recent developments in the Palestinian arena. These sources also said that intensive Arab efforts are under way to bring the views of the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships closer and to eliminate differences between them regarding the Arab and Palestinian moves in the forthcoming stage. According to these sources, Arab efforts are also being exerted to normalize ties between Syria and Iraq.

'Arafat Leaves for 2-Day Visit in Finland 16 Jan

JN1601110689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat left for Helsinki today on a 2-day visit to Finland at the official invitation of the Finish Government. Palestinian sources in Tunis do not rule out the possibility of 'Arafat stopping in Moscow on his way to Helsinki.

Yasir 'Arafat Receives Gorbachev Message

LD1701085689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 17 (KUNA)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev delivered by head of Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry Vladimir Buljakov [name as received].

Palestinian news agency WAFA said that 'Arafat has sent a message in response to Gorbachev through Buljakov when he met with 'Arafat last night, but the agency gave no further details on the contents of the two messages.

The agency added that 'Arafat and the Soviet official discussed during the meeting the possibility of achieving peace in the Middle East within the frame-work of the international peace conference.

WAFA noted that Buljakov has confirmed to 'Arafat the Soviet's stances in supporting the Palestinian rights and appreciating the Soviet leadership's appreciation over accomplishments which were achieved by the PLO.

PLO Official on Executive Committee Meetings

JN1401204289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 14 Jan (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee will conclude its meetings tomorrow by issuing a comprehensive political statement on the developments of the Palestine question.

PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad told an INA correspondent that the committee, whose meetings were chaired by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has been discussing for the past 3 days the situation in the occupied territories. He added that the committee has taken a host of decisions designed to escalate and maintain the continuation of the uprising.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad went on to say that the committee discussed the Zionist attempts to circumvent the political accomplishments scored by the PLO on the international level, the continuation of the uprising, and the internal and external effects on the Zionist entity brought about by the uprising.

The PLO Executive Committee member said the committee has categorically rejected any solution formula envisaged to be implemented while the occupation of the occupied territories is maintained and stressed the need to place the occupied territories under international supervision and hold elections there after the withdrawal of the occupation troops. He said the PLO Executive Committee reiterated in this regard its decision made during its meetings in Baghdad last month.

The Palestinian official added that the Executive Committee and the Palestinian leaders also discussed the issue of forming a provisional government and decided to postpone making a decision on the issue until mid-February, when the committee entrusted with studying the issue finishes drafting a conception of this government and of the relationship between the government and the PLO. He also said the committee discussed the situation in Lebanon and the possibilities of a Zionist invasion there after information in this regard was obtained from Arab and international parties.

'Abd al-Rahim said the PLO Executive Committee has instructed the Palestinian military command to be prepared for these invasion possibilities and for confronting them.

The Palestinian official pointed out that the PLO voiced its satisfaction over the results of the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers on the constitutional crisis in Lebanon and also over the formation of a committee comprising a number of states to tackle the Lebanese crisis and submit its proposals to the Arab League Council at a later time.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad also said the PLO Executive Committee has decided to provide urgent aid to the victims of the recent fighting in Lebanon.

Regarding the assessment of the PLO's political activities and the evaluation of the visits made by PLO officials, he said that the committee favorably viewed the results of these visits, especially those of the Greece visit [by Yasir 'Arafat], and drew up another program designed to boost the political moves in the direction of convening an international Middle East peace conference, particularly as there are Arab efforts being exerted in this regard.

Concluding his statement, the Palestinian official said that many committees to be entrusted with visiting the permanent member states of the UN Security Council will be formed.

PLO Official Cited on Tunis Meetings, Decisions

JN1701105289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
15 Jan 89 p 31

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Palestinian leaderships began meetings in Tunis yesterday with the attendance of all the Palestinian factions under the PLO. The Popular Struggle Front and the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, which is represented by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Hurani—also attended the meetings. PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash deputized his assistant Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] to attend on his behalf. DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah arrived several hours after the first meeting.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', Jamil Hilal, director general of the PLO's Information Department, said that the main topic to be discussed by the Palestinian leaders is the formation of the provisional government. Hilal added that the leaders will present the proposed names which will be referred to the [PLO] Central Council stemming from the PNC, which is the only side authorized to give confidence to the ministers. He said the Council will then approve or amend the list.

The Palestinian official said that the leaders, whose meetings will continue for several days, will also discuss another important point related to the government's program. He pointed out that all this will take place in accordance with the bases approved by the recent PNC session. However, more than one trend was noted in this regard. Some factions demand that the government should stem from the current formation [of the PLO Executive Committee] and reflect the national coalition and that in light of this the proposed names will then be discussed. Another trend demands the nomination of personalities of a social and technocratic nature. At the same time, the DFLP demands that ministerial portfolios should be given to political personalities from the PLO itself.

Hilal added that the conferees will also discuss other issues, including a review of recent developments, contacts held by Yasir 'Arafat in a number of Arab and world capitals, the formulation of a strategy for the moves expected within the next few days, and the setting of a program of action in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

Answering a question on the differences that were disclosed by a DFLP-PFLP joint statement following 'Arafat's Geneva speech and the news conference that followed it, Hilal said that there were no differences regarding the speech that was "in harmony with the PNC resolutions". In fact, the differences were on what 'Arafat said at the news conference when he used the expression "a retreat from terrorism" and not "renunciation of terrorism"

Hilal revealed that the PLO Executive Committee, which concluded its meetings the day before yesterday, did not touch on the issue of forming a provisional government, leaving this issue to the leaders of the factions which began meetings yesterday. Hilal added that the PLO Executive Committee called for further support for the occupied territories and called on the Arab states to extend aid to the uprising and to abide by the resolutions that were issued in this regard.

Hilal disclosed that the PLO Executive Committee has decided to confront any Palestinian approach calling for calming the uprising. It has also rejected the enemy government plan to conduct elections in the occupied Palestinian territories under its auspices, considering this plan an extension of a U.S.-Israeli plan aimed at peddling the autonomy rule in accordance with the Camp David accords.

Executive Committee Postpones Talks on Government

JN1601070589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT
15 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jan (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee [EC] has decided to postpone the discussion on the formation of a provisional Palestinian government until mid-February when the competent committee finishes laying down the concepts on this government. In a statement to INA here tonight, an official Palestinian source said that this decision taken by the PLO EC at the conclusion of its meetings here today enjoyed the consent of all members who preferred not to rush this issue because of its extreme importance to the future of the Palestinian struggle.

The Palestinian source added that the PLO EC categorically rejected any formula presented by the Zionist occupation authorities to the people in the occupied Arab territory because these formulas aim at aborting the mammoth popular uprising. The source added that the PLO EC affirmed the need for international supervision over the occupied territories and for holding elections after the withdrawal of the occupation forces.

On developments in Lebanon, the PLO EC called for becoming vigilant, alert, and cautious regarding Zionist attempts to invade Lebanon after the arrival of reports on this. The PLO EC called on all warring parties to stop the fighting.

The PLO EC expressed satisfaction with the results of the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting on the constitutional crisis in Lebanon. The PLO EC was also satisfied with the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of Kuwait and which consists of six states to tackle this crisis, find solutions, and present proposals to the Arab League Council to be presented later to the coming Arab summit.

PLO Urges U.S. To Halt 'Israel's Terrorism'

JN1401181489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The PLO has denounced the Israeli air force's terrorist attacks on southern Lebanon and the escalation of the enemy's criminal repressive measures against our people in the occupied territories. The PLO called on the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to stop these attacks. This came in a statement by brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee. The following is the text of the statement:

The escalation of the Israeli planes' brutal raids on our people's camps in southern Lebanon proves that the Tel Aviv government insists on organized state terrorism, which is being escalated, and on the bloody repressive measures being carried out by the Zionist occupation army against our people's uprising in the occupied territories.

While denouncing these terrorist attacks on southern Lebanon and on our people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, the PLO Executive Committee calls on the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to stop this terrorism. It also calls on the U.S. Administration to denounce it and to take necessary measures to stop it, because the continuation of the U.S. Administration's silence on Israel's terrorism encourages Israel to continue its terrorism.

PLO Rejects Shamir's 'Deceptive' Proposals

LD1401182589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The PLO yesterday rejected the deceptive Zionist peace initiatives in the wake of the statements by the Zionist prime minister, the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir, in which he said Israel would accept some sort of UN participation in the peace process.

The PLO spokesman said the Shamir proposals are deceptive and not new except on the surface and are actually aimed at easing the pressures exerted on the Zionist entity to join the peace process.

The spokesman considered impossible the organization of elections in the occupied territories in the shadow of the occupation.

The spokesman said the Zionist proposals are actually embellishments of the autonomy plan specified in the Camp David Accords, which are dead and buried, even for Egypt because of its recognition of the Palestinian state.

PLO Warns U.S. of Attempt To Kill Ilyas Frayj

JN1401180489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, telephoned the U.S. Embassy on Wednesday [11 January] and warned of the possibility that certain Israeli elements may attempt to assassinate Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and accuse Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO of the murder.

Palestinian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that U.S. sources recently disseminated certain allegations that Yasir 'Arafat had threatened to direct the stones of the uprising at Ilyas Frayj, which is not true.

PFLP, DFLP Ask 'Arafat To 'Clarify' Statement

JN1601075589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] In Damascus, the PFLP and the DFLP have issued a statement calling on Yasir 'Arafat to clarify the statements a British official has attributed to him with respect to compromise solutions on the establishment of an independent state.

Gerald Kaufmann, British Labor Party spokesman, had stated after meeting with 'Arafat that the PLO Executive Committee chairman had communicated to him his readiness to accept a compromise solution on the establishment of a Palestinian state and that he also informed him that he has given orders to the uprising leaders to calm down the uprising without ending it.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Comments on Pan Am Crash

JN1401190289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1746 GMT 14 Jan 89

["Text" of interview with PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril by the "ABS news network" held on "Wednesday, 14 January 1989" and "as published in the magazine ILA AL-AMAM"—place not given]

[Text] Question: What is your response to the charges that your organization was one of the first to be accused of being behind the American plane crash?

Answer: Without doubt, the main reason for accusing us of the American plane crash is that we reject the program of the U.S. settlement and 'Arafat's recent concessions to the U.S. Administration and the Zionist entity.

The second reason is the inherent attempt to harm Syria, Libya, and Iran because our organization has strong ties with these regimes.

As for the third reason, it is to turn the world's public anger against us because we have legitimate rights in our struggle against the Zionist enemy, thereby making us appear as savages with the aim of harming our organization, which is now playing an important role in perpetuating the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Lastly, those who accuse us want in one way or another to provide a cover for the Zionist enemy's savage and terrorist actions against our people everywhere in occupied Palestine and the killing of our women and children. In other words, these sides want to polish the image of the Zionist enemy at the expense of the Palestinian national struggle. Therefore, they want to hide Zionism's ugly face.

Question: What is your organization's stand on events such as that which happened? Is it possible to justify the destruction of civilian aircraft?

Answer: Our organization's stand has been very clear since the Pan Am plane crash; namely, that we had nothing to do with the incident. We are of the view that taking civilian aircraft as targets to realize political aims is unjustified. Here we say that the Pan Am crash is no more grotesque than the shooting down of the Iranian plane in the Gulf region on 20 July 1988. It is no more grotesque than the U.S. air raid against Libya and the killing of civilians on 17 April 1986. It is no more grotesque than the daily killing of women and children in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon, or the terrorist actions that are being perpetrated against the background of oppression and violation of human rights.

On our part, we as Palestinian Arabs condemn such actions and we believe that anyone who possesses human and civilized values will condemn and deplore all such actions. Therefore, it is obligatory that all sides should condemn and denounce terrorist operations and oppression and those who stand behind them, especially the more dangerous terrorism that is planned by states.

Question: Is Hafiz al-Dalqamuni a member of your organization and what is his position?

Answer: Al-Dalqamuni is a struggler member in the PFLP-GC. His task is to pursue the Mosad elements in Germany because they have committed many murders and terrorist actions agaist innocent Palestinians and Arabs in various countries. Al-Dalqamuni's task was to pursue those responsible for perpetrating these terrorist actions.

In this regard, our people everywhere will not forget that the Mosad killed the Palestinian nuclear scientist 'Umar Mahmud Abu Khadr, who had Italian nationality, in the United States on 22 September 1988. Regrettably, the U.S. Administration did not act or carry out its responsibility but imposed a cover and a blackout on this murder. Question: Why did Al-Dalqamuni have pressure-operated explosives in addition to plastic explosives?

Answer: As I answered a short while ago, Al-Dalqamuni is charged with counteracting the subversive Mosad program against us in Europe and the weapons and hardware found on him were for carrying out the tasks he was assigned. The detonator that works on the principle of altitude is used for various heights. Take, for example, mountainous terrain. Experts know about this device and its uses. As for the plastic explosives found on Al-Dalqamuni, they were ready to be shipped to Palestine. They are quite ordinary and the Zionist enemy has even more dangerous material.

The point I want to make is that Al-Dalqamuni had been expressly instructed to refrain from any act that could put civilian lives at risk. He also had instructions to observe the safety of Germans, both public figures and ordinary people, since, as far as we are concerned, they do not constitute targets. We seek mainly to hit the Zionist enemy and its allies on the military and security fronts. We mean the U.S. Administration and the South African regime, both of which extend strategic support to the Zionist enemy and to its terrorist and destructive policies against our people.

Question: Why should the PFLP-GC need a European base?

Answer: I have said that we are in a state of relentless struggle with the Zionist enemy, which does not spare itself toward destroying us and killing our people using inhuman practices that are incompatible with the honor of battle. The history of the Zionist enemy abounds with assassinations and parcel bombs. For example, the Zionist enemy blew up a civilian Libyan airliner in midair after it it strayed over Sinai. It also hijacked another Libyan plane on 8 September 1986, thinking I was on board.

The Zionist enemy kills women and children in the West Bank and Gaza and southern Lebanon on a daily basis and in cold blood. We in the PFLP-GC therefore use all countries around the world to counter Zionist danger and we send weapons and equipment to occupied Palestine via these countries using various ways and means. This is our legitimate right through which we defend ourselves.

Question: Are you prepared to join the current investigation and how?

Answer: This is up to the United States and how far it is prepared to join in investigating the crimes that have been committed against our people, nation, and peoples around the world.

On our part, we are ready to participate in an international commission of inquiry. We would be happy and our readiness would be greater if the inquiry is expanded to cover the criminal acts that have been perpetrated against our people and our nation by the U.S. Administration and the Zionist enemy. However, we refuse to be accused, for if we are wanted in the prisoners' dock, we believe that the U.S. Administration and the Zionist leadership must be in the prisoners' dock. Only then will the world see who are the innocents and who are the true terrorists. However, on how participation would take place, this does not concern us because our address is known and anyone can contact us.

Question: Do you take into consideration the carrying out of any action against your organization in case America obtained sufficient evidence?

Answer: The Zionist army and the Mosad carry out all that the U.S. Administration asks them to in full. I do not believe that the U.S. Administration needs to be directly involved against us. The Zionist entity is an active agent that implements the U.S. Administration's desires against us. We all recall the Zionist landing against our positions south of Beirut in the Al-Na'imah and Al-Damur areas on 9 December 1988. This landing was a fiasco and was defeated by our fighters. We are proud that our major enemy, which is embodied by the United States and the Zionist entity, was deterred in that area.

Here, I would like to advise the U.S. Administration not to be involved in any reckless action against us, especially since our stand toward downing the Pan Am plane is clear. In case we were exposed to any action against us by the United States or others, we would find ourselves before one choice: To reply to any attack. In this regard, we feel proud because we stand face to face with America. Our confrontation of the U.S. terrorism means we are a people who are worthy of respect and life.

Al-Quds: 'Arafat Orders 'Uprising' Calmed

JN1401202089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Gerald Kaufman, British Labor Party foreign affairs spokesman who met with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis the day before yesterday, has said that he asked 'Arafat whether he still insits on establishing a multiparty democratic state in the West Bank, with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat said he wishes to enter into negotiations. 'Arafat added: This means the achievement of a compromise solution in the end. You will find a compromise solution. We are searching for a result and this means a compromise solution. We will enter the negotiations with objectives. However, we will be ready to accept compromise solutions.

Regarding the charter of the Palestinian people, 'Arafat told the British Labor Party foreign affairs spokesman that the charter was not issued during his era and that he has issued orders to calm the uprising.

Hamas Issues 'Statement No 34' on 'Uprising'

JN1301190489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1722 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued Statement No 34 entitled "Purifying Our Land Through Jihad and Not Begging." Following are some of its points:

Praise be to God, the mighty, the beloved. May God's peace and blessings be on Prophet Muhammad and on the strugglers and good human beings until doomsday.

Our Palestinian people, the uprising shall go forward until the usurper leaves and the holy land is purified of the filth of the occupier. This is the voice of those who stand fast. No attention is paid to the bubbles that intend to oppress rock and bury determination through false promises, without any backing from those protecting the Zionist entity, the countries of the East and the West.

The uprising continues with God's power and then with the people's belief and the determination of the stone-hurling wrists, which are determined to liberate through action and not words. Some wonder: What has the uprising achieved? What have we gained from the year-long confrontation? The Zionist state of affairs answers this question—the human losses, hundreds of injured, and numerous wounded. This is what they say. The 2d year will witness new lists of injured and dead. This makes the uprising a sort of unbearable war of attrition for the Zionists.

Add to this the implantation of fear in their ranks, making them live in a state of preparedness, along with the loss of nerve and awaiting death at all times. Zionist media have not been able to ignore the economic slump despite increasing U.S. support to revive their economy. Let us also not forget the Arab regimes' exposures and attempts to involve the Palestinians in giving up their land by picturing peace as something moderate, wise, sane, flexible, and required by the international stand.

Our great people, it is rumored that our people have offered enough and that it is time for the yield. These tunes are a diversion from the uprising's course and a blasting of the Palestine National Charter, which stipulates that the whole of Palestine be liberated. How can we acknowledge to the Zionists the establishment of the state of oppression and terrorism on more than four-fifths of Palestine?

As for the last fifth, it is full of Zionist settlements and cities. There is an agreement among the Zionists to establish scores of settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank during the period of their present government.

The Hamas Statement No 34 adds: Our patient people, the Zionists respond to the extended hands with more oppression and suppression. The tragedies of the Gaza Strip and West Bank camps have increased. The enemy soldiers committed the Nabulus massacre. The number of injured and martyrs increased in all parts of Palestine. Detentions and stormings increased.

Prisons are overflowing and large groups of Palestinians have been deported away from their land and family. They are doing this and other bestial acts, such as frightening children and innocents, storming mosques, and demolishing homes. Then they accuse us of being terrorists. Since when was the person who demands his rights a terrorist? Are not these and other practices enough to show the nature of the Zionists? Have our people not yet known the Zionists' treachery, deception, lying, cunning, hatred, and hostility toward us and humanity? Despite all this, the uprising is the path of liberation. Land and honor have a tax and dignity has a price. Let us pay this with our souls, blood, and money.

The Hamas statement goes on to state: Our steadfast people, greetings to you in your positions for your readiness to pay the dearest price. We confirm our slogan from which there is no deviation and—not paying attention to the oppressive policy or the Arab and international conspiracies—we believe there is no substitute for the path of jihad for liberation. There is no use in all conferences and speeches before forums.

While paying homage to you, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, calls on you to observe the following:

1. To name the uprising's 1st year, 1988, the Year of Martyrs.

2. To continue and escalate the uprising to defeat the Zionists and take revenge on them in every position on our blessed land.

3. To confirm the boycott of Zionist products and to consider anyone who markets them a collaborator with the enemy.

4. To avoid emigration and leaving the homeland.

5. To show interest in opening the universities, institutions of higher learning, and schools.

6. To show solidarity with the families of martyrs, detainees, and the wounded.

7. To observe Sunday, 22 January 1989, as a day of general strike in solidarity with the deportees.

8. To observe Monday, 30 January 1989, as a day of solidarity with owners of demolished and closed houses.

The statement issued by Hamas concludes by stating: Let us proceed on the path of the continuous uprising with our heads high to save our land and sacred places from the hand of the criminal usurper.

God is great and thanks be to God.

[Signed] Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine, Hamas.

Algeria

President Gets King Hassan, Al-Qadhdhafi Calls

LD1101210489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Today President Chadli Benjedid, the president of the Republic, received a telephone call from His Majesty King Hassan II. During the conversation the Moroccan monarch touched in particular on the state of Algerian-Moroccan relations and progress in building the Greater Arab Maghreb.

President Chadli Benjedid also received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qahdhdafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The message was delivered today at the presidential headquarters by Sa'd Mustafa Mujbar, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternal Bureau in Algiers.

Minutes of Economic Agreement Signed With Libya

LD1201115089 Algiers APS in English 1022 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, 12/1/89 (APS)—Minutes sanctioning the works of Algerian and Libyan economic operators were signed Wednesday here by minister of commerce, Murad Medelsi and the Libyan secretary of the General Popular Committee for External Trade, Farhat Sharnanah.

Following this signature, the two ministers expressed their satisfaction on the results which, they said, will have positive impact on commercial relations between the two countries and on other fields.

Finance Minister Talks With Libyan Counterpart

LD1201215589 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The state of Algerian-Libyan economic relations, particularly in the field of financial cooperation, was at the center of the meeting held between Mr Sayed Ahmed Ghazali, the [Algerian] finance minister, and Mr Farhat Sharnanah, the secretary of the People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade in the Jamahiriyah and head of the Libyan side at the Algerian-Libyan follow-up committee.

The talks between the two sides enabled them to define the state of relations with regard to the customs agreements and customs cooperation, in addition to cooperation between banking institutions and fiscal administrations.

The two sides also examined the arrangements made for the creation of a joint Algerian-Libyan bank shortly with a capital estimated at $100 million for investment and foreign trade. This institution will be added to the other economic bodies that have been set up between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to take the necessary measures to develop economic cooperation between Algeria and Libya.

Bendjedid Receives SDAR President 16 Jan

LD1601232489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received SDAR President and General Secretary of the Polisario Front Mohamed Abdelaziz at the Presidency today. The audience was attended by the foreign minister and the chief of staff at the Presidency.

Mehri Chairs FLN Organizational Meeting

LD0801205489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Permanent Secretariat, chaired at the Front's building this morning an important organizational meeting, attended by members of the Executive Secretariat, during which he appointed the coordinators of the 14 new FLN administrative divisions which have been set up within the framework of the new FLN structures.

This organizational meeting was an opportunity to review the duties of the regional structures as well as the mid- and long-term program of the grassroots' activities. It was also an opportunity to examine the means to go ahead with the implementation of the first stage of the program of action [reforming the party]

Following a fruitful discussion between the conferees a number of organizational and political topics dealing with the implementation of the political program of reforms for the current stage, were examined.

Mr Mehri made a speech at the end of the meeting, which went on until this evening, emphasizing the ways to proceed with the implementation of the program and the means of securing permanent contact between the grassroots and the leadership by way of acquainting the grassroots with the country's political events and activities, on the one hand, and detecting the grassroots' real preoccupations on the other.

The Front's secretary general affirmed that the most important framework for the coordination duties is to use one language, which can be done through sound understanding of the transformations being witnessed by the country aimed at deepening democracy and precisely clarifying the exercise of political duties.

Within this context, Mr Mehri pointed out that joining the Front will be allowed in accordance with the principle of broadening the Front. He noted, in this respect, that the aim of such a process is to give all dynamic forces an opportunity to express themselves and to work.

The Front does not, however, have any reservation about any citizen who believes in the National Charter's convictions, as people's convictions are in reality personal convictions. Therefore, one of the main goals that are hoped for from this process is to allow the citizen to feel that he is taking part in the political life and that his problems are being felt by the Front before anyone else. [passage omitted]

Doctors Hold 1-Day Conference on Torture

LD1101203589 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Five months after the bloody riots in Algeria, doctors today held a conference on torture. Claire Arsenaud-Lers is on the line from Algiers:

[Arsenaud-Lers] Doctors Facing Up to Torture, this is the theme chosen for a 1-day study organized by doctors at Mustapha Hospital in Algiers. Although this meeting was authorized it had to be held without the participation of foreign doctors and militants who were refused entry [to the country] by the Algerian authorities. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Arrest Campaigns, New Islamic Organization Noted

JN1501175489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] Campaigns by the security organs which lasted 4 consecutive days have resumed to arrest members of the Islamic groups in various Egyptian governorates. Last Wednesday, the security forces encircled the 'Umar ibn al-Khattab mosque in Alexandria and arrested 13 members of the Islamic group who were present inside the mosque. They also arrested four persons during the funeral of an Islamic group member.

In Cairo, the areas of 'Ayn Shams, Al-Matariyah, 'Izbat al-Nakhl, Al-Marj, and Imbabah have witnessed a large-scale arrest campaign which resulted in the arrest of more than 100 members. The governorates of Asyut, Al-Minya, and Suhaj have witnessed similar campaigns which resulted in the arrest of dozens of Islamic group members. A responsible security source has asserted that these campaigns aim to remove the remnants of these groups as part of a plan to search for the Islamic group leaders who have fled since the incidents of the 'Ayn Shams area last August and December.

The source also asserted that the Interior Ministry agreed to the awqaf minister's request to hold a dialogue with the detained members of these groups. The dialogue will be attended by senior Egyptian men of religion, including Dr Al-Tayyib al-Najjar, Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, and Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali. The dialogue with the detainees is expected to begin in the Abu Za'bal and Turrah prisons in the next 2 weeks. The higher state security prosecution will define the stands of those accused of the recent unrest next week, when the renewal of their imprisonment will be examined in the consultations room at the north Cairo court.

In a few days, the Interior Ministry is expected to announce a new religious organization named "the Reformation of the Jihad Organization" [i'adat tashkil tanzim al-jihad]. This organization aims to overthrow the government, incite the masses against the government, attack policemen, and plan terrorist operations against a number of public figures and vital installations in the country. Last week, the state security police submitted memoranda on the information and investigations to the interior minister in order to refer them to the higher state security prosecution and start interrogations of the organization's members.

Cabinet Approves Bill, Issues Decisions

JN1301133789 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] In its meeting yesterday under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law amending some provisions of the Consultative Council's law and adopting the personal candidacy regulations. The amendment stipulates that the Consultative Council will consist of 246 members, including 62 appointed members, and that the Republic [of Egypt] will be divided into 82 constituencies.

The Council of Ministers also issued a number of important decisions and recommendations to overcome the obstacles impeding the implementation of some projects in light of the discussion of the report on following up the first year of the second 5-year plan, particularly concerning the monetary, financial, and credit policy as well as the foreign dealings in a way that will secure the achievement of the rates mentioned in the plan. Foremost among these decisions is to complete the projects on agricultural development and land reclamation with the necessary rates, particularly the lands distributed among youths and the related infrastructure projects.

The Council decided to solve the problems of and promote the construction sector, particularly regarding the arrears it should receive from ministries and bodies, something which obstructs this sector's activity. It also decided to give priority to the popular housing projects in the current fiscal year and to provide all capabilities to complete the infrastructure projects, particularly the sanitary disposal and drinking water projects at the level of governorates.

It stressed the need to pay attention to the completion of educational and health sectors' buildings as well as the youth centers in order to support these sectors' capability, particularly increasing the number of medical beds and providing sports services. It also decided to give priority to the sports installations projects mentioned in the plan so they will be ready prior to the holding of the African session in Egypt in 1992.

Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, has said the follow-up reports showed tangible development in the commodity exports, which totaled approximately 4.630 billion pounds with a growth rate of 31 percent from 1986 to 1987. In 1987-88, commodity imports totaled approximately 16.267 billion pounds as compared to 12.336 billion pounds in the year before. He said the projects of the plan's first year provided about 494,000 job opportunities and that wages increased to 17.197 billion pounds with a growth rate of 11.3 percent as compared to 1986-87.

Following the Council of Ministers' meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the amendment approved by the Council means the adoption of the personal candidacy regulations. It is known that the Consultative Council law stipulates that two-thirds of its members will be elected and one-third will be appointed by a decision from the president of the Republic, he said. The amendment also stipulates that if the seat of an elected member becomes vacant before his membership expires then there will be a complementary election to elect a replacement.

It also stipulates that the member should be at least 35 years old on the day of elections or appointment and that his membership should not have been abrogated by a decision from the Consultative Council or the People's Assembly due to lack of confidence or privileges or due to violation of the membership duties in accordance with the provisions of Article 96 of the Constitution. Nevertheless, he can be nominated or appointed in either of the two following cases:

- If the period of the midterm renewal [fatrat al-tajdid al-nisfi] during which the decision abrogating the membership has been issued, expires.
- If a decision is issued by the Consultative Council canceling the factor which prevents nomination or appointment resulting from the abrogation of membership. In this case, the Council's decision will be issued with the approval of most of its members based on a proposal submitted by 30 members.

The amendment stipulates that no one can be a candidate in more than one electoral constituency, and if someone is nominated in more than one consituency, he will be considered a candidate in only the first. The list of candidates in any electoral constituency will be displayed in the way determined by the interior minister during the 5 days following the final date of receiving the applications. The names and attributes of the candidates will be given in this list, and the names of the candidates of a constituency should be published in at least in two daily newspapers.

The amendment also stipulates that if there are only two candidates in a particular constituency, one of them a worker or peasant, he will win unopposed. If there is only one candidate in a particular constituency, he also will win unopposed, and by-elections will he held to elect the second member from the workers and peasants if the one who won unopposed is not a worker or peasant.

The information minister added that the amendment also stipulates that a member of the Consultative Council should be elected if he wins an absolute majority of votes cast during the elections. If the two candidates who win an absolute majority are neither workers nor peasants, the one who wins more votes will be elected, and another election will be held in the constituency for the workers and peasants and the one who gets more votes will win.

If neither of the two candidates wins an absolute majority of votes in the constituency, an election will be held for the four people who won more votes than the others, provided that at least half of them are workers or peasants. In this case, the two who win more votes will be elected, provided that at least one of them is a worker or peasant.

The information minister added that the Council of Ministers discussed the Planning Ministry's report on the economic and social performance of the projects of the 1987-1988 fiscal year, the 1st fiscal year of the second plan.

Dr Kamal al-Janzuri explained that the results of the 1st year of the plan show an increase in the value of the overall local production from 40.832 billion pounds in 1986-1987 to 43.249 billion pounds in 1987-1988, the 1st year of the plan. This increase corresponds to 5.9 percent, while population growth reached 2.8 percent, a fact that resulted in the living standard's rise.

Dr al-Janzuri also said in his report that the plan's goal is to mobilize the revenues and savings of the private sector for development. This sector's contribution in 1987-1988 reached 31.8 percent of the overall investment, compared to 30.4 percent in the previous year.

Data on the 1st year shows that infrastructure projects such as electricity, transportation, communications, potable water, and sewage won the greatest part of investment, which amounted to 4.257 billion pounds in the 1st year. This means an increase by 29.3 percent compared to the previous year.

The information minister added that Dr Kamal al-Janzuri said that some executive bodies suffered a shortage of liquidity during the 1st year of the plan, especially those whose projects depend on self-sufficiency. This led to a delay in the implementation of some projects. Shortage of free currency also sharply affected the implementation of the plan's projects. Field tours also indicated a delay in importing equipment for some projects whose buildings are prepared.

He also said that follow-up operations also showed that some sides do not abide by the size of investment determined for their projects and by the determined investment allocations.

Mediation Attempts With Libya Reportedly Cease

JN1401153289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Jan 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] All Arab mediation to reconcile Egypt with Libya has recently ceased due to lack of response from both sides. Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that UAE President Shayk Zayid has stopped his efforts to clear the atmosphere in Egyptian-Libyan relations after Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi refused to receive one of his envoys to discuss the possibility of settling the disputes between Cairo and Tripoli. Cairo has welcomed Shaykh Zayid's efforts to bring the Egyptian and Libyan viewpoints closer.

The sources also pointed out that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has recently stopped his efforts to open channels of direct contact between Egypt and Libya due to the intransigence of the Libyan stand. Also, the Sudanese attempts to mediate between the two countries have also frozen following the recent deterioration in the Sudanese internal situation.

The sources also explained that until now, the efforts of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ali and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid have not achieved any progress in easing tension in Egyptian-Libyan relations, particularly after the Libyan regime refused to pay the dues and compensations of the approximately 100,000 Egyptian workers who were deported from Libya in 1985.

The sources confirmed that Egypt's reserved position on the shooting down of two Libyan warplanes by U.S. aircraft has led to more intransigence in the Libyan position on the subject of normalizing relations with Egypt at the current time.

Cairo Radio on Bush Middle East Policy

NC1301135089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Mamduh Isma'il commentary: "The Option of Peace Has Become Unavoidable After All Requirements Have Been Fulfilled for the First Time"]

[Excerpts] Successive events and emerging facts in the Middle East arena show that a just and comprehensive peace within the framework of an international conference is the only viable option. [passage omitted]

The remarkable shift in the world stand, which is unfavorable toward Israel, has made Shamir's government aware that it will not stand for long before this overwhelming current. Therefore, it will try to concentrate on the major powers which have influence over the entire situation. The most important of these powers is the new U.S. Administration, which will assume official responsibility within 1 week. Israel hopes that it will be able to impose on Washington a specific course in line with the policy of procrastinating and of frustrating the overwhelming victories achieved by the PLO.

We believe that U.S. President-elect Bush can assure Israel about further guarantees to its security. However, he will not encourage it to maintain the policy of intransigence and rejection of peace, the requirements for which have been fulfilled for the first time.

This can be illustrated by Mr Bush's visit to the Middle East region in 1986, when he was vice president. At that time he met with 18 Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank, and assured them that the United States would help to bring about a peaceful solution and would conduct a dialogue with the PLO if the latter were to recognize Israel.

The PLO has responded to U.S. terms and the road before President-elect Bush is fully paved for continuing the peace process in the region, which has suffered from long wars and acts of violence.

Talks Held With USSR on Power Projects

Official Talks Begin

NC1401140089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and the Soviet Union opened at the Ministry of Electricity this morning under the chairmanship of Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister of power and electrification, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Eng Abazah stated that the talks dealt with the Soviet Union's participation in financing certain energy projects in Egypt, including the giant coal-operated electricity generating station project in 'Uyun Musa with an aggregate output of 1,200 megawatts. This plant, which will facilitate the electrical grid between Egypt and Jordan, is due to be put into operation this year.

Minister Abazah added that the talks also dealt with the likelihood of Soviet participation in the electrical pumping and storage project in Jabal [name indistinct] in 'Ayn Sukhnah. This project, he noted aims to store the Gulf of Suez water in a high reservoir outside peak hours. To handle the demand during peak hours, the surplus electrical energy in the unified network will be utilized by repumping it to electricity generating turbines. The output of this project is 600 megawatts.

A technical cooperation protocol in the field of energy is expected to be signed between Egypt and the Soviet Union tomorrow. The Soviet minister has invited Eng Abazah to visit Moscow within the framework of enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Power Minister on Mubarak Talks

NC1401110189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister of power and electrification, who is currently visiting Cairo. Attending the meeting were Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

After meeting President Husni Mubarak today, Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister of power and electrification, said that they had reviewed the Egyptian-Soviet consultations on energy which were conducted in Cairo 2 days ago, and had also discussed the consolidation of bilateral relations in this respect. The Soviet minister said that he had held discussions with Egyptian Minister of Energy Eng Mahir Abazah on future energy projects and Soviet participation in them, noting that the two countries are making efforts to consolidate and deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of energy and all other areas.

He said that contacts and consultations are under way with a view to developing the Aswan power plant and that both countries have been cooperating openly in this field since the building of the station to date. He praised the performance and skill of the Egyptian workers at the Aswan power plant and said that he had participated in the Aswan celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the signing of the High Dam construction agreement.

Minister on Nuclear Energy

JN1501135989 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 4

[By Muhammad al-Shamma']

[Excerpt] Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister of power and electrification, has stated that Egypt must move toward nuclear energy, especially since it has no other energy sources such as coal and oil.

He added that the Chernobyl incident has not affected the Soviet Union's nuclear program since three units in the Chernobyl plant have been made operational while work in the unit where the incident took place has stopped. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Accord Signed

NC1501155389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—A protocol on technical cooperation in the field of energy between Egypt and the Soviet Union was signed today. Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, signed the protocol on behalf of Egypt and Anatoliy Mayorets, minister of power and electrification, who is currently visiting Egypt, signed for the Soviet Union.

After the protocol was signed, Eng Abazah said that an agreement has been reached with the Soviet Union according to which the latter will finance the huge 'Uyun Musa power plant with a total capacity of 1,200 kilowatts [as received]. He said that the plant has been designed to operate on gas or coal. He noted that the Soviet Union stressed that it will build the 'Uyun Musa power plant network. He added that the protocol provides for the export of spare parts for all the power plants, electrical equipment, and appliances that the Soviet Union had previously sent to Egypt. He pointed out that all suspended spare parts will be sent to Egypt promptly and at cost price.

Abazah went on to say that the protocol also provides for an exchange of visits. He stated that a meeting at the level of experts will be held between the two countries in March to discuss the final details of the 'Uyun Musa power plant as a prelude to carrying out the first stage of the project, which will have a capacity of 600 megawatts.

Abazah pointed out that the Soviet Union has agreed in principle to participate in the project to convey energy from Zaire to Egypt and then to Europe, because it has great expertise in the field of transmitting energy through high voltage lines of 1,500 kilovolts.

Soviet Minister Mayorets said that he was glad to visit Egypt. He declared that in view of the excellent relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union cooperation in the field of energy will be greatly boosted as of today. He noted that cooperation with Egypt on the 'Uyun Musa power plant will be only a drop in the ocean compared to the constructive cooperation that will take place in the future.

He pointed out that the equipment to be exported to Egypt will be sold at cost price since the Soviet economy can afford this. The 'Uyun Musa power plant will be built at the lowest possible cost, he stated. He said that Egyptian experts and technicians in design engineering will be trained in the Soviet Union. He noted that a delegation of experts from the Ministry of Electricity will visit Moscow this month for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Arab-Soviet Dialogue Session Held in Cairo

Session Begins

NC1401141889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its appreciation for the positive role which the Soviet Union is playing in order to speed up the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, which is considered a sound framework for solving all aspects of the Middle East problem.

This came in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's speech delivered by Assistant Foreign Minister Muhammad Sami Haybah at the opening of the second round of the Arab-Soviet dialogue which is organized by the Egyptian Committee of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization and the Arab Thinking Club in Amman. This second round of the Arab-Soviet dialogue will last 2 days.

The assistant foreign minister affirmed that Arab-Soviet relations are viewed with great interest, particularly following the important changes caused by the new Soviet thinking, the resultant detente in international relations, and the increase in Arab-Soviet cooperation in the various fields. Haybah added that the Arab states appreciate the Soviet Union's support for the Arab and Palestinian issues, and for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In particular, he expressed Egypt's appreciation for the cooperation it received from the Soviet Union regarding the settlement of the debts issue. This confirmed Moscow's eagerness to promote Soviet-Egyptian relations.

Professor Mikhail Kapitsa, director of the USSR's Oriental Studies Institute and chairman of the Soviet AAPSO Committee, emphasized the Soviet Union's desire to boost its relations with the Arab countries, take an effective part in the Middle East settlement efforts, and convene the international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, for the sake of establishing a peace that would guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Also speaking at the opening was Mahmud Riyad, former Arab League secretary general and deputy chairman of the Arab Thinking Club in Amman. He pointed to the positive developments that recently emerged on the Arab arena, foremost among which is the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations, which gives rise to optimism over the present and future capabilities.

In his speech, Riyad noted the pressures brought to bear by the United States and Zionism on the Soviet Union to allow the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. He said that any Soviet commitment in this regard should be reciprocated by a U.S. and Israeli commitment to respect the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people.

Mahmud Riyad warned against Israel possessing nuclear weapons and its threat to the Arab region and its Asian neighbors, including the Soviet Union. He said this is a grave issue that must be thoroughly discussed during the Arab-Soviet dialogue because Israel has not yet signed any international agreement concerning these weapons.

Addressing the session, Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian AAPSO committee, said the world is passing through the age of dialogue. Hence the importance of holding the second session of the Arab-Soviet dialogue in Cairo in completion of the first session which was held in Amman in March 1988. He stressed that the dialogue should find the best means to establish Arab-Soviet relations on the basis of understanding, cooperation, and common interests for the sake of achieving stability in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Seminar Releases Statement

NC1501200889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Arab and Soviet participants in the Arab-Soviet dialogue seminar, which concluded this evening, have expressed their extreme satisfaction with the high level of the dialogue between the two parties. This dialogue is considered to be a model for popular diplomacy which should support and interact with official Arab and Soviet efforts to further cement bilateral ties.

This came in the final statement released by the seminar. The statement emphasized that the participants in the dialogue discussed the various areas, particularly the economic and technological spheres, in which cooperation could be strengthened for mutual benefit.

The statement said that there is an Arab-Soviet consensus that every positive development in the Arab arena constitutes a historic opportunity that must be utilized in favor of peace, justice, and development. The Middle East problems, the statement said, featured prominently in the dialogue. The Soviet participants asserted that the substance of Soviet policy in the Middle East has not changed, although it has become more flexible regarding means and technicalities.

The statement stressed that the Soviet Union is opposed to settling regional disputes by armed force. The Soviet Union believes that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the conflict in the region.

The Soviet participants in the seminar heard questions posed by Arab participants on the course of the new Soviet thinking about the Middle East. All participants stressed the importance of the latest Palestinian developments in serving the cause of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It should be recalled that the seminar began yesterday under the patronage of the Egyptian committee of AAPSO. Soviet and Arab experts participated in the seminar.

Minister on Perestroyka

NC1401164489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1542 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Vladimir Vinogradov, RSFSR minister for foreign affairs, has reaffirmed his country's position in support of the Arab cause, particularly the Palestinian issue, stressing the need to convene an international conference on peace on peace in the Middle East.

Speaking before the Arab-Soviet dialogue seminar which opened here today, Vinogradov touched on the changes the Soviet Union is currently undergoing as part of the policy of restructuring, "perestroyka." He said this policy, called for by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, will reorganize social and work relations within the Soviet Union as well as the USSR's relations with the outside world within the framework of the policy of peace and reducing military spending.

He pointed out that a study is currently under way in the Soviet Union to discuss possible changes in laws governing political establishments, thus turning the Supreme Soviet into a house of representatives that includes two-thirds of the members selected by public organizations. He also said that the Soviet Presidium will turn into a permanent body and that 20 percent of Presidium members will change every year, so that no member will be able to stay for more than two terms of 5 years each.

Minister on Ties, Peace

NC1601142289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Vladimir Vinogradov, RSFSR minister of foreign affairs, has described Egyptian-Soviet relations as proceeding on the right path. He said that there are no problems or contradictions marring these relations, which, he added, are based on respect, reciprocity, and a mutual desire to promote bilateral ties in all fields, particularly the economic and technological spheres.

In an exclusive interview with MENA today, Vinogradov said that there are continuing exchanges between Egypt and the USSR and noted that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is expected to visit Egypt soon. Vinogradov, who is currently visiting Egypt, added: We in the Soviet Union hope President Husni Mubarak will visit Moscow, where he will be most welcome and will be accorded a warm reception.

Touching on Arab-Soviet relations, Vinogradov said they are currently witnessing noticeable progress, particularly with the Gulf countries. He added: We do not interfere in the regimes in power in any country, and our relations with everybody are based on mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs.

Referring to his country's stand on the Middle East issue, the Soviet official said: Our attitude toward Israel has not changed. He reiterated the Soviet Union's adherence to the need for solving the Palestinian question and the Middle East dispute in a just and comprehensive manner, saying that this requires Israel's withdrawal from all the territories it occupied in 1967, including the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

Vinogradov added: We are striving to establish peace in the region for several reasons. One reason is that the aggressor must not be permitted to continue his aggression and forcibly confiscate the rights of others. A second reason is that the Middle East region is close to the Soviet Union, which wants peace to prevail in this region so that its states may devote themselves to development and reconstruction.

Vinogradov went on: The international peace conference is the practical formula for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. The superpowers and the parties concerned, including the PLO and Lebanon, should participate.

The Soviet official added: We believe that the conference should be a permanent one until peace is established in the region, and that it should issue documents defining the march of peace and future, such as the peace document, documents related to the borders, and other documents pertaining to guarantees and compensations for the Palestinians.

Vinogradov said further: The Palestinian side has clearly defined its stand on the issue of peace. It remains for the Israeli side to make a similar decision. [passage omitted]

Delegation Departs

NC1701064189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—The Soviet delegation led by Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet AAPSO Committee, and Vladimir Vinogradov, chairman of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Association, left Cairo tonight following a 1-week visit to Egypt.

During its visit the Soviet delegation took part in the seminar on the horizons of peace in the Middle East, which was held from 10 to 13 January, and the Arab-Soviet dialogue seminar, which was held on 14 and 15 January.

Austrian Chancellor's Visit Continues

Holds News Conference

NC1501130589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Austrian Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitzky has declared that his visit to Egypt was successful.

At a news conference he held at the Al-Qubbah Palace this morning, Dr Vranitzky said that his talks with President Husni Mubarak concentrated on the two countries' efforts to find peaceful solutions to conflicts all over the world and to create an atmosphere of confidence in international relations.

He added that his talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi focused on joint cooperation, especially in economic, trade, and agricultural fields.

Dr Vranitzky said that the talks on foreign issues dealt with East-West relations and their relaxation, in addition to the current developments in the Middle East. He noted Austria's positive stand toward the initiatives declared by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, initiatives which have been positive and which have been welcomed and appreciated by Austria. He also noted that Austria has recognized the Palestinian state.

Dr Vranitzky stressed that Austria and Egypt had agreed on continuing the dialogue and exchange of views of important international topics.

The Austrian chancellor said that the CSCE session currently being held in Vienna will hold its final meeting on Tuesday. This will be followed by two conferences in Vienna in March, one on conventional weapons disarmament and the other on creating confidence in international relations.

The Austrian chancellor called on all the European states interested in peace in the Middle East to urge the Israeli Government to join the efforts being made to convene an international peace conference under UN auspices.

Dr Vranitzky stressed that nuclear and chemical weapons disarmament in the Middle East must be a top priority in view of the importance of the region for all the states of the world.

On the Iran-Iraq war, he expressed his country's satisfaction with the recent developments and with the ceasefire. He stressed the need for peace to be established between the two states on the basis of UN resolutions. He indicated that he has issued instructions to Austrian diplomats to continue to work to support the peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

On Third World debts, the Austrian chancellor said that the solution must lie only in the rescheduling of debts. He called for concerted cooperation with the debtor nations to enable them to rebuild their economic structures and compete in international economic spheres. He stressed the need for international financial institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank, to carry out their task in a better way than in the past. They must serve social and economic development, he said, which must stem from internal factors and not depend entirely on foreign aid.

Asked about the tense relations between the United States and Libya, the Austrian chancellor said that it is difficult for Austria to formulate a stand at present pending the arrival of clear and full information on the situation. However, he called on all states to contribute to world stability, to prevent tension in international relations, and to refrain from taking hostile stands toward others.

The Austrian chancellor described relations with Egypt as excellent, firm, and historic. He said that his talks in Egypt focused on economic aspects, as he was accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen representing the sectors of industry, trade, modern communications, and tourism.

Dr Vranitzky reviewed the agreements on telecommunications and tourism projects that had been signed during the visit, in addition to a $24-million barter trade agreement. He said that the talks also dealt with cooperation in the technical and scientific fields, the exchange of visits, and the establishment of joint projects, especially those that rely for financing on their own products rather than on foreign loans so that they will not encounter the well-known problems of loans. He explained that the philosophy of cooperation between the two sides is based on expanding bilateral relations and economic cooperation and on helping Egypt to implement joint projects without suffering from loans and their inherent problems.

Dr Vranitzky said that he and Dr 'Atif Sidqi have agreed to review consular cooperation between the two countries and to expand the spheres of care for workers in Egypt and Austria and safeguard their interests. He noted that there is great cooperation in the exchange of youth, student, and tourist delegations.

The Austrian chancellor stressed that joint projects do not meant anything if they do not broaden knowledge about the two countries through real cooperation, exchanged visits, training, and project implementation.

Sidqi Comments on Talks

NC1501162489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The final meeting between the Egyptian and Austrian delegations was held at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah today, under Prime minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Austrian Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitzky. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Prime Minister Sidqi stated that his talks with Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky were extremely positive and that Austria is in favor of peaceful and comprehensive action to resolve the Middle East problem. He went on to say that Austria supports the convening of an international conference to solve the Middle East problem and that it continues to maintain this stand. He noted that Austria has a role in the international and European arenas and adopts a stand on Middle East issues. He said that political ties between Egypt and Austria are good, indeed excellent, in other areas, particularly the economic sphere. He added that the talks also dealt with the imbalance in trade between the two countries, which favors Austria.

Sidqi pointed out that lengthy talks were held on ways of increasing Egyptian exports to Austria. The possibility of the establishment of joint projects in Egypt and the export of part of their production to help bridge the gap in bilateral trade was discussed. The talks also dealt with the stand of Egypt and Austria on Third World debts. Vranitzky stressed that Austria would take action to resolve this problem in the interest of the debtor countries. He promised that Austria would support Egypt's demands in this respect.

Asked whether Austria can play a mediating role in the Middle East conflict, Sidqi said that this is first and foremost up to Austria. He expressed his belief that Austria has played a mediating role for a long time, and said he hoped it will continue to do so.

Vranitzky Leaves Cairo

NC1501131689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Austrian Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitzky and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon after a 5-day official visit to Egypt.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Abolishing Institutions

LD1601231089 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2034 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the Basic People's Congress in Al-Jabal al-Akhbar municipality 16 January—recorded; video shows audience listening to speech by Al-Qadhdhafi, who is not seen]

[Text] Good evening. I greet the congress. You know, I applaud the citizen who said: How is it that the people's committees for jamahiri sports are abolished without this being decided by people's congresses. The shining reality is that anything goes without anyone objecting. This means that anything done by the masses might be cancelled without the masses having objected to this cancellation. Now it appears that there is indeed a citizen who is capable of deciding his own fate and affirming people's power. This very citizen has shown people's power. I wish all the members of the peoples' congresses were like this citizen who has protested about the abolition of the people's committees for jamahiri sports.

As a matter of fact I was the one to call for the abolition of the peoples' committees for jamahiri sports, and the idea of jamahiri sports was mine. But I have not been dismayed at all or become angry at the fact that this citizen has said no, objected and protested, because it is true. Sometimes I seek to test you. I abolish something and it goes undetected. How can it be undetected by you, if you were not the ones to decide on the abolition or to understand it? This citizen is a genuine citizen. He is an aware citizen. He shows that, whether Mu'ammar is there or not, whether the revolution command exists or not, no one can cancel the people's power. Because I want these congresses to remain forever, and these people's committees to remain forever. The people must decide their fate without patronage, without Mu'ammar, and without the revolution command.

How is it that you hear about the idea of the abolition of the people's committees for jamahiri sports, and this idea passes without your objecting to this? There is supposed to be someone who is aware like this citizen, who said: No, this has not been decided. Irrespective of whether the people's committees for jamahiri sports are useful or not, deserving or not deserving of abolition, the principle is an extremely serious one—that of receiving any idea, any order, and passing them without knowing who has decided them.

The citizen was right when he said: We have not decided this. You congresses should have convened and decided on the abolition of jamahiri sports. So long as the congresses have not decided this abolition they must not be abolished. Why should they be abolished?

Despite the fact that I was the one behind this idea of abolition, the congresses must discuss these institutions that are abolished. What I am saying to you—and I have told you this in the past, because this is open and it is supposed to have been included on the agenda—is that a real people's jamahiriyah must be set up, with the abolition of the official jamahiriyah, because the institutions existing currently, despite their being set up by the people's congresses, are still regarded by people as government institutions.

Take cars, for example. Why not import cars? So long as the people, the citizens, say: why not import cars, this means that there exists another quarter, other than the people, responsible for importing cars. Some 100,000 cars have been imported, and it was said: Why import just 100,000 cars? This is not enough for us, why not import more? I want to know who has not brought in cars, who has or who has not imported cars. Who are they? There must not be a particular quarter outside the people.

Therefore, I am determined to abolish all the currently existing institutions, even if they had been set up by people's congresses in the past, and were considered as official as if they were state institutions, or—to put it in an unacceptable way—as governmental institutions. They are neither governmental, nor belong to the state, nor imposed upon the people. They were decided by the congresses, but people still consider them as vertical and higher institutions which are outside their power and as belonging to a government.

Thus, I am determined to set up a popular regime in the world, whose basic foundation is Libya. A real popular regime, and truly people's power because what is happening now is not my program. As far as I am concerned, if I were to rule I would rule in a dictatorial way, and would implement the revolutionary program with fire and sword, by force of arms and the sword. And if someone has a program (?against) the people, he could implement it like Stalin did, As far as I am concerned, I did not accept this. What is being implemented now is democratic change or progress by the popular masses. The current program is the one which is chosen by people, not the one I have chosen. I have a revolutionary program which, I know, will not function this way. It will function when I rule, but I do not want to rule. I decided that it is the people who should rule.

Consequently, all the institutions which are considered as belonging to the state will have to be abolished, and first and foremost the jamahiri sports, which have utterly failed. I said jamahiri sports, that is the sports of the masses. Foreign radios broadcasts show shots from extensive and long streets crowded with the masses who practice jamahiri sports. The jamahiri sports have moved to [incomplete sentence as heard] the world has become aware of their importance. In Europe, and in (?the rest of the world), you can see that thousands take part in jamahiri sports. Here, jamahiri sports have never been established. There are only club sports, those of a selected, or chosen, or elected group of amateurs, whom people keep watching.

As long as the situation is like this, society cannot be responsible for spending, for the costs of sports for fun and amateurism, and for individual sports. Any group of people are free to set up a club. They are free and this is their own responsibility. The sports we should impose, and shoulder responsibility for, as a people, are the sports which all of us, 4 million Libyans, take part in, except those who are unable, such as children, or even disabled people have sports [as heard].

Apart from schools, educational institutions, and the people in this age, housewives and elderly people also have sports. We want to create a sane and healthy society: a sound mind in a sound body.

Jamahiri sports have utterly failed. They could not have been implemented even for a year. Consequently, there is no need for 1,000 civil servants in the Jamahiriyah for the sake of jamahiri sports. There are 1,000. These 1,000 can go home. They will not, as I said, go empty handed, they will be in cooperatives, or shops, or they will be granted loans in order to live on agriculture. But it is over; they have failed in jamahiri sports. We do not need to pay for 1,000 civil servants when there are no jamahiri sports in the end. Local, free, and voluntary sports should replace them. Any tribe can play sports, any street can play sports, any group can set up a club. They are free.

If there is any assistance that the people or the state, that of the Jamahiriya, can give to these institutions and clubs, then let them do it. If not, these are free sports, everybody is free. Whether someone organizes a game for profit or in order to improve himself, the important thing is that the jamahiri sport has failed, and consequently there is no justification to maintain 1,000 officials for the sake of jamahiri sport; and although I said it should be abolished, it should in fact, be abolished only after the (?decision) of the people's congresses, and this is the correct way; regardless of my decision, the citizen has objected, and this is a really alert citizen who deserves praise.

There are a number of institutions which must be abolished. I have told you: The farmers are no longer expecting anyone to sell their produce for them or to provide them with fertilizers, or animal feed. Where is the fertilizer, as they did not provide it? Who are those who did not provide you? Where is the feed? Why did they not provide us and distribute it fairly, and why they are selling it to us dearly? Who are they? As if there are other people. I want to abolish all that and I do not want to hear this again. The farmers might be confused for 1, 2, 3, or 4 years and then they themselves will create institutions from their congresses which will undertake to provide them with the feed, fertilizers, and pesticides, and also market their output, as there will be no agricultural produce marketing company.

The farmers are to market their produce, whether it is in Malta, or from Tripoli to Al-Baydha, to bring it from Al-Baydha to Gharyan, to Sabha, or to Jaghbub; they are free, they have to find the way. Then popular organizations will emerge, managed by the people, so that they themselves are responsible, and tomorrow they will not be able to complain.

There will be no one to buy cars for you, and I am insisting on abolishing the companies which import cars. I do not know their names, is it the Tibisti company? So that the people themselves will manage. Everyone takes the money and pools it together. You can set up a bureau or an agency or a new company so that tomorrow they will not be saying: Why did they not import cars for us? No, they will say: We have chosen such and such a company to import for us. Then there will be no responsibility placed on someone else.

This country is without complaints, without strikes, without demonstrations, because the people rule themselves. The struggle for power must end. The demonstrations and the sit-ins and the protests are all protests (?against) authority, a struggle for power. However, all this must end because power is in the hands of the people, it is a government of all the people. So whom are you protesting against? To organize a sit-in, against whom?

The workers are partners, and as partners they will not strike, even for an hour. Because if they did so for even an hour their share in production would decline. These are drastic solutions which I insist on applying in the world.

They will be the cornerstone of a new world known as the era of the masses. Many establishments must be abolished, and you are free. You can put that forward now, or you can decide that I put it before you on 2 March. I can do that at the meeting of the General People's Congress. However, all those establishments are going to be abolished and their employees will go home. But there must be something arranged to enable them to earn a living, and not just to tell them: We have laid you off, and that is all.

The JANA news agency houses a huge octopus with hundreds of officials, and still it is useless. It is one of those institutions which tires me. The news never arrives. Hot, urgent news never arrives. A news item broadcast by the world today is reported to us by our agency the day after tomorrow. What we want to be broadcast immediately is not broadcast at all. It is confused, and does not even know how to work. It is timid and ignorant, assuming that it might err and be held responsible by someone, who will hold it responsible. Therefore, it must be abolished.

Ten individuals will sit with a receiver, just like Abu 'Ammar [PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat] who has only one set with which he communicates with 120 other sets, which we have bought for them. He sends a cable, and it appears in 120 states.

This is how we will operate, one machine will broadcast to the world and there will be no need for this octopus at all. It must be abolished.

And the security service in the Jamahiriyah also must be abolished, because complaints are mounting against it and its violations are on the increase, added to the competition that exists with the Foreign Ministry. It must be abolished. The Jamahiriyah security service and the Bureau of Investigations have overlapping functions in their security work. It certainly must be abolished.

All the institutions which are traditionally considered as state institutions are to be abolished. You might find yourselves in disarray for 1,2,3, or 4 years, but afterwards you yourselves, on your own volition, will come out with institutions, establishments, and instruments which are 100 percent popular ones, for which you will be responsible, and which will be in charge of your affairs. Afterwards, if you want to be angry with them, then so be it; if you want to change them, then you will change them.

But so far, these companies, these institutions, and all these bodies seem to be literally imposed on you; therefore they will be abolished. This is your business. You may discuss them now, or some other time, but they are going to be abolished from this year on. Find your own way. I for one was happy that it did not pass undetected at least by this aware citizen at your congress. It did not pass undetected by him. He asked: Who has abolished it?

As a matter of fact I am even going to abolish JANA. It has 400 employees. We do not want them any more. We want just 10 people. I have conducted an investigation and they said: We want just 10 people who will manage it and the rest will go home. It is not supposed to be abolished, and they are supposed to come to the people's congress and say: Why should we be abolished without a decision? Despite the fact that I was the one to decide this, it is not constitutional; it is not legal from the democratic point of view.

I know that from the revolutionary point of view it is all right. So long as I am serving the revolution I can block everything and use the revolution. That is it, I can use the revolutionary program. This is the revolution. But now I am not following the revolutionary program. I am following the popular democratic program which [words indistinct] the people.

I am grateful to this citizen. He represents citizens who are aware, and all members of the people's congresses should be like this citizen.

U.S. Pilot's Body Given to Vatican Official

LD1301135389 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Vatican City, 13 Jan (KUNA)—It was reported here today that the Libyan authorities handed over to Monsignor Giovanni Martinelli, the Vatican's deputy apostolic delegate, in Tripoli this morning the body of the U.S. pilot who came down with his warplane on Libyan territory in February 1986.

This was announced by Joachin Navarro [name as received], the Vatican's official spokesman, who said that the Libyan authorities had handed over the body of the U.S. pilot to the Vatican representative, and that they put at his disposal a Libyan military plane which is due to arrive in Rome later today.

Vatican officials will receive the body of the U.S. pilot and will then hand it over to competent U.S. authorities.

Navarro stressed that Libya had asked for the Vatican mediation last December, as a gesture for Christmas. The Vatican accepted this medication and it managed today to complete the arrangements for returning the body.

The body will be transferred this evening to the forensic medicine center in Rome, where a panel of three U.S. doctors will examine it to determine the identity of the dead pilot.

Ceremony Held in Tripoli

LD1301173189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—The body of the U.S. pilot whose aircraft was downed during the abortive U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah in April 1986 was handed over to the representative of Pope John Paul II, who will in turn hand it over to the pilot's family.

The transfer operation took place during a ceremony held at the house of the brother leader of the revolution, which was the target of the U.S. aircraft during their aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah, in the presence of the Pope's representative, Cardinal Giovanni Martinelli, a representative of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, a large number of journalists, and students' delegations from West Germany, Belgium, Austria, and the Netherlands.

The pilot whose body was handed over today was Air Force Captain Paul Lorence, aged 31. Fourteen bullets, a red knife, a cigarette-lighter, a wedding ring, and $59 and 10 pounds sterling were found in his possession.

The waves washed up two military helmets, one belonging to him and another belonging to his colleague, Fernando Ribas, who was killed, drowned, and whose body was not found.

A girl, 'Ayisha Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, delivered a speech on behalf of the children of the Great Jamahiriyah, in which she expressed the children's regret for being unable to hand over the bodies of the other airmen whose aircraft were downed and whose bodies had not been found.

The girl, 'Ayisha Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, said: We regret also to tell the children of the United States that this is the fate of your fathers who were aggressors against the sons of our people who were asleep, but the ones who deserve to be killed were in fact the leaders of imperialism.

The girl, 'Ayisha Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, also said: The children of the Great Jamahiriyah would have liked to present to the children of the United States and the U.S. people a bouquet of flowers, and not the body of an airman, as congratulations from the Arab Libyan people on the advent of the new year. And we reaffirm to U.S. women and children that this is the fate of aggressors against our homes and children. The revolutionary struggle continues.

The body of the U.S. pilot was transported this afternoon by an Arab Libyan aircraft from Mi'itiqah [name as received] airbase, formerly Wheelus [name as received] airbase, to Rome where a representative of the pope will hand it over to the U.S. pilot's family.

Pope's Envoy Expresses Thanks

LD1301193889 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Bishop Giovanni Martinelli, the representative of Pope John Paul II expressed the Vatican's thanks and appreciation to the leader of the revolution and to the Libyan Arab people for such great humanitarian deed.

In a statement JANA, he said: "This great humanitarian deed by Great Jamahiriyah will actively contribute in consolidating peace and understanding amongst nations the world over."

He added saying: "I am convinced, and from my own experience, that the Libyan Arab people is a peaceful people and one that works towards peace and endeavour to achieve it all over the globe."

'Left-Wing' Australian Politicians Make Visit

Waiting To See 'Chemical Plant'

BK1701090289 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] A group of Australian left-wing politicians visiting Libya is to have a meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, but is yet to be taken to see the chemical plant at Al-Rabitah. Anti-nuclear independent Senator Irina Dunn in Tripoli says despite promises that they will visit the site they are still waiting.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1501202289 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received a delegation of members of the Australian parliament who are on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

The Australian delegation expressed to the leader of the revolution their solidarity with the people of Great Jamahiriyah in countering American aggression and threats. They asserted that they have chosen this particular time for visiting Jamahiriyah as an assertion of their solidarity with and support for the Libyan Arab people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Arab Leaders

LD1501105489 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution sent a telegram to Arab kings, presidents, premiers and ministers of foreign affairs, health, industry and information. The text is as follows:

In the name of your Libyan brothers and sisters who are fighting in your name a tyranical super power [word indistinct] in their name I salute you kings, presidents and ministers for foreign affairs, health, industry and information for standing like one man on their side against official terrorism and persistent aggression from the village of Al-Rabitah to the Gulf of Boumbah after the Gulf of Sidra.

Aggression was defeated thanks to the standing of the nation in one row like a well built building and the fleets retreated not as a result of a similar Libyan military force but because of the international stance resulting from the unity of the Arab stance. You have, Brothers, registered an eternal and honourable line in the book of our nation's modern history one hand would not have achieved it alone...[ellipses as received] this depended on all your hands as its honour is for you all.

You have restored to the nation its consideration and dignity before the world in this united stand which will never be forgotten.

I hope that we pledge as from now on ourselves to the realisation of the unity of the nation in all fields and on every front and battle from the Ocean to the Gulf. [sentence as received]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Polisario Official

LD1601182389 Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar 16 [16 January], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Bechir Mustapha Sayyed and the delegation in his company.

Bechir Mustapha Sayyed expressed the solidarity of the Arab people in the Sahara with the Libyan Arab People in countering American aggression and threats. Also he briefed the leader of the revolution during this meeting on the results of the dialogue and talks which recently took place between the Sahrawi delegation and King Hassan II of Morocco.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Burkina Defense Minister

LD1301215489 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Jean-Baptiste Lengani, defense minister of the Jamahiriyah of Burkina. The Jamahiriyah of Burkina defense minister informed the brother leader of the revolution that Captain Blaise Campaore, chairman of the Popular Front in the Jamahiriyah of Burkina, had charged him with conveying the support and solidarity of the Burkinabe people for the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation with U.S. aggression.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Mediterranean Peace Committee

LD1401192989 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli Ay al-Nar [January] 14, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution received today the president and members of the Mediterranean Peace Committee of the organisation of the Mediterranean Progressive Socialists.

Dr Carmillo Mifsud Bounicci [name as received], the president of the Mediterranean Peace Committee, expressed the firm condemnation by the Committee of the American Aggression Against the People of Great Jamahiriyah. He asserted that the Mediterranean Peace Committee will work to expose the dimensions of American threats and and hostilities against the people of Great Jamahiriyah and make known to all Mediterranean peoples the facts and truth of persistent American aggressions against the Libyan Arab people and the danger of American military presence in the Mediterranean. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Arab Doctors

LD1401193989 Tripoli JANA in English 1824 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 14, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution received the delegation of the General Secretariat of the Union of Arab Doctors consisting of the head of the Union of Syrian Doctors and the deputy head of the Algerian Union of Doctors as well as the deputy of the Union of the Jordanian Doctors, the head of the Union of Doctors in Bahrain and delegates from the Syndicate of Tunisian Doctors.

The members of the Union of Arab Doctors reasserted to the leader the support of Arab doctors for the Libyan Arab people in countering the scornful Zionist savage onslaught against the Arab nation.

Also they affirmed their pride in the faithful leadership of the leader of the revolution to the Arab nation. They expressed their confidence that the Arab masses shall victor over its their enemies.

The members of the Secretariat told the leader of the revolution that they came to Great Jamahiriyah to join the sit-in by their colleague doctors and pharmacists inside the pharmaceutical factory at Al-Rabitah in the city of Gharian and their readiness to sacrifice their lives in defence of the gains of the Arab nation.

They reaffirmed their continuous action for the realisation of the Arab nation's unity being the sole reply to the plots hatched against the Arab nation.

The leader of the revolution saluted the revolutionary stance of the Arab doctors and other popular organisations which are an extension to the Arab popular stance in the case of "Cleopatra" when Arab workers boycotted American ships in protest at the American refusal to receive the ship "Cleopatra".

The secretary general of the Union of Arab Doctors handed over to the leader of the revolution a document of pledge and loyality.

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1601233589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Information Ministry has released the following statement: His Majesty King Hassan II, received this morning Monday, 16 January 1989 at the Royal Palace in Marrakesh, Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the People's General Committee for Public Services in Libya and chairman of the Maghreban Committee for Societal Affairs and Security, who conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Mr al-Shakshuki was accompanied by Mr Muhammad Qasim al-Zuwwi, Libyan resident secretary in Morocco. The audience was attended by his majesty's advisers and Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui Alaoui and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information.

It is to be noted that Mr al-Shakshuki had arrived in Rabat on 9 January, leading a delegation of officials concerned with questions of security and emigration in the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Mr al-Shakshuki and his accompanying delegation held a working session with their Moroccan counterparts, including in particular Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri and Minister of Equipment and Cadre Training Mohamad Kabbaj, and Minister of Employment Hassan Abbadi.

Employment Minister Meets Libyan Counterpart

LD1301131989 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Rabat, Jan 13. (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Employment Hassan Abbadi and his visiting Libyan peer Fawzi al-Shakshuki held here Thursday a working session devoted to discussing means of upgrading bilateral cooperation particularly regarding the movement and work of Moroccan labor, cadres and technicians.

During the meeting, Abbadi said Morocco was willing to put at Libya's disposal its expertise and to contribute to the promotion of Libyan economy following the changes breought to Libyan economic sectors and with a view to materializing Maghreban complementarity.

Abbadi also dealt with the situation of the Moroccan colony living in Libya and means of improving its living and working conditions there and proposed that these issues be tackled by the Moroccan-Libyan Joint Commission in the context of the conventions concluded by the two countries.

The Libyan official on his part highlighted the excellent relations existing betwen Morocco and Libya and stressed the importance of strong inter-Maghreban and Arab ties.

Al-Shakshuki, who underlined the role of the Arab human element in the promotion of Libyan economy, explained the evolution witnessed by Libyan economy specifying that his country needed Arab and particularly Moroccan technicians to promote its economic development.

He expressed hope that all these issues be further examined by the joint commission, which, he said, constitutes the continuation of Maghreban complementarity and integration.

The meeting was attended by Libyan Resident Secretary (ambassador) in Rabat Muhammad Qasim al-Zuwwi.

Filali on Arab League, Paris Meetings

LD1401133289 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Casablanca, Jan 14. (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali flew back home Friday afternoon afternoon after he partook in the extraordinary session of the Arab League ministerial council held in Tunis Thursday and represented Morocco at the international conference on chemical warfare prohibition held in Paris January 6 to 11.

In a statement to the media, Filali assessed the works of the Arab League ministerial council and the meeting held by Maghreban foreign ministers on the fringes of the council's extraordinary session.

Regarding the Maghreban meeting, Filali said it was meant to discuss and assess the current situation in the region. "I think that everybody is now convinced of the need to hold a Maghreban summit and everybody agreed to convene it in Morocco by the end of the current month," Filali said.

As to the council's extraordinary session, Filali said it was mainly devoted to examining the serious Lebanese institutional crisis and that Morocco had reaffirmed its "sustained backing to Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity and its determination to help settle the Lebanese crisis, in collaboration with other Arab countries."

Filali recalled that the session had set up a committee entrusted with getting in touch with all Lebanese parties to the conflict with a view to helping them overcome their differences and settle the Lebanese crisis.

He also recalled that the session had condemned the destruction of the two Libyan MiGs by U.S. fighters, voiced solidarity with Libya and asked the United States to refrain from conducting any action against the Jamahiriyah.

Asked whether the Paris conference was a failure since the final communique does not explicitly mention the prohibition of nuclear weapons, Filali said one cannot speak of failure since the Paris conference was devoted to discussing the prohibition of chemical weapons.

"It is clear that a number of countries did not deem it normal to deal with the prohibition of chemical warfare while occulting a far more important and serious problem, namely, the existence of the nuclear weapon which is the monopoly of few countries," Filali said.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Warns Against Threats to Democracy

EA1401163389 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said in an interview that one of the most important and promising results of our current political experience is the very clear discipline of our Armed Forces, whose conduct he described as showing a high degree of consciousness and responsibility. He said this in the context of discussion of threats to the system of democracy enjoyed in the country. His excellency warned against the conduct of some parties and organizations which are striving to destroy democracy, despite their frequent talk about democracy and its protection. He described the slogans they raise as theoretical talk and useless pretense.

He also said that defense of democracy is not a case of waiting until the pronouncement of communique number one [signifying a military coup]. Rather everyone should understand from the outset the role they are expected to play in the defense of democracy, which begins by raising the level of performance in every field, being alert to any conspiracy, and not providing any opportunity for those who are waiting to undermine democracy and constantly striving to annihilate it by manipulating every situation, including spontaneous popular outrage as shown in the recent December incidents.

Garang's Deputy on South, Peace Talks

JN1501163289 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 15

[Interview with Yusuf Kuwah, first deputy of SPLM leader John Garang, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-QABAS] The question imposing itself right from the start is: Liberating Sudan from whom? For there is neither colonialism nor dictatorship. So, who is the enemy?

[Kuwah] The question is not liberating Sudan from whom, but from what. Sudan succeeded in gaining its independence officially in 1956. As for economic independence, there is no limit to what can be said about it. Sudan's foreign debts are well-known, and illiteracy is 95 percent. Eradicating ignorance is liberation. Freedom means the ability to make a choice out of knowledge. How can you have freedom when you lack knowledge? Sudan is dominated by ignorance and disease, and these are forms of restrictions. There are people in Sudan who walk for many hours in order to get a small quantity of potable water. Securing water for the Sudanese citizen would be liberation, and ending the current economic crisis would also be liberation. [passage omitted]

[AL-QABAS] What do you think is Sudan's problem?

[Kuwah] The problem is one of nationality. Sudan has a plurality of nationalities. And yet, the Arab nationality is being imposed on all the other nationalities. According to the 1955 statistics, Arabs comprise 39 percent of the population, Africans 60 percent, and others 1 percent. [passage omitted]

There is also a religious problem in Sudan. Not all Sudanese are either Muslim or Christian. The south is neither predominantly Muslim nor Christian. In a homeland like ours, religion should be a personal matter (religion is for God and the homeland is for everyone). The majority of Sudanese are indeed Muslim. Therefore, we believe that Sudan must have a secular constitution. [passage omitted]

[AL-QABAS] What do you say about the Ummah Party's reservations on the recent peace accord?

[Kuwah] We agree to the clause calling for the abrogation of agreements that are prejudicial to Sudan's sovereignty in view of the existing reality—the presence of foreign forces in western Sudan and the attack on our positions by foreign aircraft.

Regarding the call for canceling the state of emergency law before reaching a cease-fire, we say that there is no connection between them.

Regarding the holding of the constitutional conference inside or outside Sudan, we say: Under the Kokadam Agreement, we were ready to attend the conference in Sudan. Now, however, we fear the detention of Garang under the state of emergency law. Therefore, cancellation of the state of emergency law would provide the guarantee that Sudan is serious. So, we cannot now hold the constitutional conference inside Sudan.

The movement demands that approval must come from the Constituent Assembly. Then there would be a cease-fire, and preparations could begin to hold the constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi, Communist Party Chief on Peace

EA1701120089 Khartoum SUNA in English 0908 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met here yesterday with Muhammad Ibrahim al-Nuqd, secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party, and discussed the ongoing peace process in the country. Al-Nuqd said in a press statement he issued after his meeting with the premier that Al-Mahdi had acquainted him with the outcome of the efforts being made by the government to achieve peace in the country.

Al-Mahdi Says Talks Under Way for New Government

LD1501195689 Khartoum SUNA in English 1703 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 15 (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has described as basic the question of achieving peace in the south, confirming that he conducted recently talks with various political parties for holding the constitutional conference shortly.

Al-Mahdi told a conference held here today with trade unionists assigned to study the structure of wages and salaries that consultations are currently underway to form a new government.

"The outcome of these consultations will be presented before the Constituent Assembly" Al-Mahdi added.

Meanwhile, the prime minister asked the trade unionists to prepare a study in the sphere of housing, transportation, supplies and other social and economic issues.

He reiterated the necessity of defending democracy confirming that Sudan is ruled by Sudanese people.

The prime minister praised the recommendations submitted to him by trade unionists, on ways of finding alternatives for financing the new structure of wages and salaries, adding that he would pay concern for those positive recommendations.

On the other hand, Minister of Transport and Communication Aldo Ajo, who is the chairman of the governmental committee studying the new structure of wages and salaries hailed the role of the trade unionists and described their recommendations as positive.

The recommendations of the trade unionists aimed at finding means of finance to the new structure of wages and salaries covered the fields of peace in the south, increase of production, decrease of government expenditures.

The trade unionists urged the government to contribute in the finance by decreasing the expenditure on the central and regional levels.

They called for imposing indirect taxes on the nonessential commodities.

To Form 'Technical Committee'

EA1601213689 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced he will form a national technical committee to prepare for the national constitutional conference. He said he will announce a date for the conference shortly. Addressing the consultative conference yesterday, he added that his contacts with the political forces are continuing and are characterized by a national and patriotic spirit. He affirmed that the outcome of these contacts will produce a definite timetable with dates and functions regarding the question of peace.

Relations Between Coalition Parties Normalized

EA1601113889 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jan—Relations between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the Ummah have returned to normalcy and the channels of contacts are now open, said the state minister at the Finance Ministry, Dr Tijani al- Tayyib, who has been shuttling between the leaders of the two parties during the past week.

In press statements yesterday Dr al-Tayyib pointed out that he would exert more efforts to "mild the atmosphere" between the DUP and the National Islamic Front (NIF) in a bid "to complete the circle" of accord. He asserted that direct contacts between the DUP and the NIF have already started.

It is understood that following the DUP's pull-out from the national accord government last December relations between the Ummah and the NIF, on the one hand and the DUP, on the other hand, have become lukewarm.

Meanwhile, the NIF Politburo member, 'Ali Tamim Fartak, has told SUNA that contacts with the DUP are being conducted in the same context of the three parties encounter with the Council of State chairman, Ahmad al-Mirghani, last month. Al-Mirghani met with the leaders of the three parties end of last December in a move to lessen the gap between the NIF, DUP and Ummah. Fartak stressed the importance of contacts with the DUP.

Government Approves Alternative Finance Sources

NC1601211189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1731 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 16 Jan (MENA)—During its meeting today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese Cabinet approved proposals which were submitted by the committee on alternatives for financing minimum wages and the removal of discrepancies, following discussions lasting 10 days. [passage omitted]

The alternatives proposed by the committee and approved by the cabinet today included an increase in the price of cigarettes, an increase in the price of a gallon of gasoline to 10 pounds and a gallon of kerosene to 4 pounds, and the imposition of indirect taxes on luxury goods and direct taxes on private vehicles.

The alternatives also included the imposition of an additional 15 percent duty on imports, apart from essential goods, and the imposition of a 15 percent "reconstruction" tax on Sudanese products except flour, sugar, medicines, textiles, edible oil, and soap. [passage omitted]

The committee called for a reduction in public spending in Sudan and suggested that those who are able should participate in the financing of projects.

The committee also noted the need to combat smuggling, corruption, and black market trading to protect the Sudanese national economy.

Council of Ministers Accepts Wage Recommendations

EA1601210889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said at a news conference today that the Council of Ministers has decided to accept the recommendations of the joint committee assigned to draw up alternatives for financing the minimum wages.

He added that the council decided to fix the price of sugar on the basis of the real costs of the local factories; that is, 125 piasters to finance the supply plan to the condition that the government would undertake to provide additional imported sugar to be sold at a commercial price apart from the supply plan. [sentence as heard]

He explained that the government would reduce its total expenditure with regard to constitutional and executive posts and travel abroad by 10 to 20 percent. On the peace issue, his excellency pointed to the government's commitment to peace and said new developments would soon be announced on that matter. [passage omitted]

Oman

Cabinet Reshuffle, Appointments Reported

JN1601195889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, 16 Jan (WAKH)—An Omani cabinet reshuffle as well as the appointment of a special adviser to the Omani sultan and a Defense Ministry secretary general, along with appointments in the Omani Foreign Ministry, were announced here tonight.

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has issued a decree appointing Al-Mu'tasim ibn Humud Al Bu Sa'idi minister of state; Malik ibn Sulayman al-Ma'mari minister of housing; and Dr 'Ali ibn Muhammad ibn Musa minister of health.

The Omani sultan issued another decree appointing Dr Mubarak ibn Salih al-Khaduri special adviser to the sultan. According to a third decree, Sayf ibn Ahmad al-Battashi was appointed secretary general in the Ministry of Defense with the rank of minister.

According to a fourth decree, Harib ibn Sa'ud Al Bu Sa'idi was appointed Foreign Ministry under secretary for administrative and financial affairs while 'Abd al-'Alim ibn Mustahil ibn Rakhyut was appointed ambassador in the Foreign Ministry's general office.

Saudi Arabia

Report on Intelligence Service Overhaul Denied

LD1401230289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] There is no truth whatsoever in what has been broadcast by British radio which quoted a report published by THE INDEPENDENT to the effect that there has been an overhaul of the entire Saudi intelligence service. This was stated by a responsible source to SPA today. He said: We have heard British radio and have seen what THE INDEPENDENT published today to the effect that the Kingdom has overhauled its entire intelligence service due to infiltration by a pro-Iranian group into the service.

Because this report is absolutely groundless, we would like to repeat what we have already conveyed to those responsible at British radio on the need to ascertain the truth of the information that some papers strive to get from unreliable sources. This is in order to preserve the credibility of what is published and broadcast.

Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Congressional Group

LD1501105689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, met at his office today with a U.S. Congressional delegation currently visiting the Kingdom. Some aspects of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The audience was attended by Ambassador Muhammad Ma'mun al-Kurdi, head of the Foreign Ministry Economic Section; Ambassador Nizar 'Ubayd Madani, head of the Foreign Ministry Western Department; and Walter Cutler, U.S. ambassador in the Kingdom.

'Western Veto' of Condemnation of U.S. Viewed

JN1401184289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Western Veto"]

[Text] The use of the veto "right" by the UK and France, along with the United States, against a draft UN Security Council resolution condemning the U.S. aggression against Libya because of the downing of two Libyan planes by U.S. fighter planes is a mere manifestation of a kind of Western alliance with international terrorism. These three states are among the world's states that harbor the greatest enmity toward Arab issues.

The United States, which carried out its aggression under the guise of fighting chemical weapons, has large stockpiles of these internationally banned weapons. In the international campaign against this category of weapons, the United States announced that it will keep a part of these weapons stockpiles after destroying another part. What is worse is that the United States is determined to continue its research on chemical weapons to produce developed types of such weapons.

We might recall what happened at the UN Security Council in 1986 when the United States, the UK, and France used under similar circumstances the veto "right" against a draft resolution condemning Washington for the air raid it launched against the two Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi. We are now witnessing a playback of past events. The same thing might happen in the future as long as the minds of Western decisionmakers are dominated by terrorist thinking.

The United States, the UK, and France are first and foremost colonial states. Hence, it is not strange to see these states use the veto "right" against a draft UN Security Council resolution condemning the U.S. aggression against Libya submitted by the Nonaligned Movement's states despite the support voiced for the Libyan stand by many states at the UN Security Council.

The positive initiative by Washington when it canceled air maneuvers scheduled to be staged by the planes of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast prompts one to draw only one conclusion: The language of force and violence has ceased to be a language understood by all people. This move by Washington also means that the big world powers must resort to dialogue in tackling any emerging international crisis to help enhance world peace and security.

United Arab Emirates

FRG 'Certain' Mosad Behind Pan Am Bombing

JN1701084089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAKH)—Informed European sources have said that the FRG team investigating the Pan Am blast over Scotland last month has informed the main investigation committee, which includes U.S., British, and FRG investigators, that they are certain that the Israeli Mossad was behind plane blast.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published here today, quoted these sources as saying that within the next few days, FRG intelligence will present to the main investigation committee a list of the names of a number of persons with confirmed connections with Mossad, and who work between London and Bonn.

The sources added that a number of members of the U.S. side to the investigation committee have accepted the FRG assertion of Mossad's involvement in the blast within the framework of a plan aimed at accusing Palestinian organizations in order to force Washington to end its dialogue with the PLO.

The same sources pointed out that British security authorities are expecting certain extremist Jewish organizations to carry out acts of terrorism against British targets in order to harm the new relations between the PLO and London.

AL-ITTIHAD Cited on 'Zionist' Responsibility

JN1401171489 Manama WAKH in English 1505 GMT 14 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Manama, Jan 14 (GNA)—A UAE newspaper expressed hope that the United States would now know the "real terrorist" after the Jews Defence League [as received] announced its responsibility of blasting a Pan American plane in Scotland.

Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper commenting editorially on the subject said "the announcement by a spokesman of the Jews Defence League of the responsibility for blasting the American jumbo jet in Scotland did not add anything new as fingers were pointed from the start towards the Israeli enemy as being behind this tragic incident to raise an accusation against Arabs."

"All indications show that Israel is the only beneficiary of this criminal action" the paper noted.

"The terrorist Jews Defence League admitted commiting this crime in protest against Washington's decision to open direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," AL-ITTIHAD added.

"The blasting of the Pan American plane by Zionists is not the first of its kind...they exploded Jerusalem-based King David Hotel in protest against Britain's political trend (at that time) which had failed to comply completely with Israel's conditions."

It also pointed out that similar criminal acts were carried out by Israeli [word indistinct] Egypt in 1954 when they attacked American institutions in Cairo in [order] to impede the improvement of relations between Egypt and the United States.

The paper hoped that Washington would come to know the "real terrorist" and that Arabs are and were not terrorists, but they are demanding and defending their legitimate rights.

Al-'Utaybah, OAPEC Official Discuss Egypt

JN1501192289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 15 Jan (WAKH)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, met with Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Wattari, OAPEC acting secretary general, this afternoon. Dr al-Wattari is currently on a short visit to the UAE.

Following the meeting, Dr al-Wattari told WAM that he conveyed to Dr al-'Utaybah, chairman of the current OAPEC session, an official request from Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi proposing the restoration of Egypt's OAPEC membership and the holding of an OAPEC ministerial council meeting in order to make a decision restoring Egypt's membership.

Dr al-Wattari said Dr al-'Utaybah expressed the UAE's support for Egypt's return to the organization and asked him to contact all OAPEC member states and to take steps to ensure Egypt's return to OAPEC.

He indicated that the OAPEC General Secretariat received the Iraqi request within the last 2 days and will soon contact the member states in order to fix the date and venue of the OAPEC ministerial council meeting. He said that indications show that all the member states, headed by the UAE, agree to the resumption of Egypt's membership as was the case regarding Egypt's membership in other Arab organizations. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Netherlands Minister Arrives on Visit 14 Jan

JN1501091889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] The Netherlands Cooperation and Development Minister Piet Bukman arrived in Sanaa yesterday evening heading a delegation on a visit of several days to our country.

In a statement to SABA', the Netherlands minister said his visit is taking place due to the Netherlands' policy with regard to inter-state relations, our country being one of ten states receiving a large proportion of Netherlands aid. He pointed out that cooperation with our country has been so positive that such visits become necessary to improve the cooperation between the two states.

The Netherlands minister added that he will hold talks with the brother officials of our country about the projects which the Kingdom of the Netherlands is implementing. He said that he will visit some of the Netherlands projects and become acquainted with the nature of the work being done there.

Piet Bukman was received by brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, chairman of the Central Planning Organ [CPO], and Standing Committee member; Dr Muttahir al-Sa'idi, deputy development minister and deputy chairman of the CPO; a number of CPO officials; and (Fine Derkh), the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

Meets With Salih, Al-Iryani

JN1501143689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at noon today Piet Bukman, cooperation and development minister of the friendly Kingdom of the Netherlands, currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation between our country and the Netherlands. The brother president leader lauded the developed relations between the two friendly countries and the fields of cooperation which are witnessing continued development.

Attending the meeting were Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Organ of Planning, and Standing Committee member; Dr Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy development minister and deputy head of the Central Organ of Planning; and (Fine Derkh), Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, met with Piet Bukman, Netherlands cooperation and development minister, today. They discussed relations between the two countries and ways to promote them as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

Confers With Deputy Premier

JN1501190289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Organ of Planning, and Standing Committee member, today received Piet Bukman, Netherlands cooperation and development minister, and the accompanying delegation currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, they discussed economic and development relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and promote them.

Attending the meeting were brothers Dr Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy development minister and deputy head of the Central Organ of Planning; 'Abd al-Wali 'Abdallah al-'Aqil, Central Organ of Planning assistant under secretary; and (Fine Derkh), Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

Council Approves Joint Yemeni Oil Project

JN1101140889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Consultative Council today held an extraordinary session under brother Deputy Speaker Sa'id al-Hakimi. The Council heard a report submitted by a joint committee comprising the economic affairs, petroleum, and mineral resources committee and the Yemeni unity affairs committee on the joint investment agreement connected to the formation of a joint company in charge of utilizing petroleum and mineral resources in the joint territory between the two parts of the homeland in the provinces of Ma'rib and Shabwah.

Following thorough discussion on the agreement and due to the fact that it comes in implementation of the historic agreement achieved last Ramadan between the two parts' leaderships, and in view of the fact that the agreement includes tax and customs exemptions and facilities, the Council approved the agreement with the required majority. [passage omitted]

President Calls New Parties 'Important Pillar'

JN1601191089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that permitting the formation of political parties, in addition to existing ones, is an important pillar of the country's political life in the coming phase.

Chairing a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] Regional Command today, his excellency added that this development in Iraq's political life is a vital need designed to enhance and deepen the revolutionary, popular, and democratic experience and to promote this experience, which the ASBP has been leading for 20 years. He asserted that this experience affirmed its strength and solidity and its deep popular roots in the previous phase, particularly during the valiant battle waged by the people and their national Armed Forces against the Iranian aggression and against all the Zionist, colonialist, and anti-Arab forces that have allied themselves in various ways to the racist, expansionist, and anti-Arab Iranian aggression.

During the meeting, the idea of forming political parties was approved on the basis of the principles defined by the country's Constitution, which will be prepared and then put before a popular referendum in the coming phase. A special committee was formed to prepare a working paper on this issue. The paper will be discussed by the RCC and the ASBP Regional Command. The RCC and the Regional Command decided to continue their meetings in the coming phase to ripen and approve the proposals, plans, and working papers on the country's Constitution, the formation of parties, public freedoms, and other essential issues linked to the features and bases of Iraq's political life in the coming phase.

Also during the meeting, which lasted 7 hours and in which the RCC and the Regional Command continued previous meetings, the coming elections for the National Assembly were discussed. It was agreed to continue holding meetings to examine the electoral lists and necessary arrangements to hold these elections in an atmosphere that will enable the citizens to elect their representatives freely in a way that will enhance and enrich this democratic experience. The issue of forming political parties was studied in detail during the meeting.

ICRC Informed of Release of 255 Iranian POW's

JN1601120489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Iraq has officially informed the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Baghdad of its decision to repatriate 255 Iranian prisoners of war [POW's]. This decision implements what President Saddam Husayn announced during his meeting with the scholars of religion who participated in the second conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs last Wednesday. The decision is also an assertion of Iraq's humanitarian course and adherence to international and divine laws.

In a memorandum sent to the ICRC mission in Baghdad, the Foreign Ministry called on the ICRC and international community to shoulder their responsibility in pressuring the Iranian regime to fulfill its legal and ethical commitments by repatriating all prisoners, and ending their tribulation and their families' worries by adhering to the 1949 Third Geneva Convention on treating POW's.

Somali President Barre Arrives on Official Visit

JN1401170289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre arrived in Baghdad this morning on an official visit to Iraq. He was accorded an official welcome at the airport. President Saddam Husayn led the officials who welcomed the Somali president upon arrival. Also on hand to receive President Siad Barre were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Iraqi and Somali national anthems were played while the guest president was accorded a 21-gun salute. President Siad Barre and President Saddam Husayn then reviewed the guards of honor who represented various classes of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

After a short rest at the airport, President Saddam Husayn accompanied his guest, President Siad Barre, in an official motorcade to the latter's place of residence by the main roads of the capital. During the ride, President Saddam Husayn briefed the guest president on the architectural features and historical sites of the capital city of Baghdad.

President Siad Barre is being accompanied by a Somali delegation comprising Eng Uthman Jami' Ali, head of the Public Services Department of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party; Abdiqasim Hassan, minister of state at the Presidency; Mohamed Ali Hamud, acting minister of foreign affairs; Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, minister of information and tourism; Iyanli Mohamed Siad Barre [name as received], head of the Internal Political Department and the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party's representative at the Presidency; and Staff Brigadier General Mohamed Saleh al-Haj Ahmed, director of the Training Department of the Ministry of Defense.

Holds Talks With President

JN1401212289 Baghdad INA in English 1850 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 14, INA—A round of official talks between Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Somalia was held this evening. The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by President Saddam Husayn while the Somalian side was headed by President Mohamed Siad Barre of the Democratic Republic of Somalia.

The talks dealt with brotherly relations between the two countries and means of developing them in all fields. They dealt with developments of the negotiations between Iraq and Iran and Iraq's attitude calling for comprehensive and durable peace and Iran's attempts to hinder the negotiations and obstacle [as received] achievement of comprehensive peace. The talks also dealt with the African Horn, the Arab situation, and issues of common interest.

On the Iraqi side the talks were attended by members of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan, the first deputy premier, Tariq 'Aziz the deputy premier and foreign minister, Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, Mr Mundhir Ibrahim, minister of higher education and scientific research, Mr Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labour and social affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador to Somalia.

On the Somalian side the talks were attended by Eng Uthman Jami' Ali, head of the General Services Office of the Somalian Revolutionary Socialist Party, Mr Abdul Alam Slao Hassan, state minister for political affairs [name, title as received], Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, minister of information and tourism, Brigadier General Mohamed Saleh al-Haj Ahmed, chief of training at the Defence Ministry, and Somalia's ambassador to Iraq.

Concludes 3-Day Visit

JN1601114189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited his guest, Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, at his place of residence this morning. President Saddam Husayn presented his guest two revolvers manufactured by the Military Industrialization Organization from the weapons of the martyrs of the glorious Saddam Al-Qadisiyah battle as a souvenir. President Saddam Husayn then escorted his guest the Somali president in an official motorcade to Saddam International Airport at the conclusion of a 3-day official visit to Iraq. President Saddam Husayn led those who saw his guest the Somali president off. [passage omitted]

GDR Official Makes Predeparture Statement

JN1601085689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Gerald Goetting, deputy chairman of the GDR State Council and deputy president of the GDR Presidium, has said that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was distinguished and important. He said: I conveyed to his excellency heartfelt greetings from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and GDR State Council chairman. In a statement to INA before leaving Baghdad today, Gerald Goetting added that the results of the talks he held with the Iraqi officials were fruitful and very useful. He added that he felt, during the talks, Iraq's clear desire to reach a lasting peace in the region.

The GDR official said that these efforts are fully identical with the principled stand of the GDR to reach a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict on the basis of UN Resolution No 598. He added that the GDR welcomes direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement the articles of this resolution.

Answering a question on the trade exchange and economic and technical cooperation between the two countries, the GDR official said that it has been agreed to reinforce bilateral relations and to continue and intensify the political dialogue. He said that Iraq and the GDR are linked by old and developing relations in the political, economic, and scientific fields.

Answering a question on the situation in the Middle East, Gerald Goetting reiterated his country's support for and solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their national rights. He praised PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's peace initiative declared in Geneva last month. He added that the dialogue that followed this declaration between the PLO and the United States could benefit the peace issue. He pointed out that the GDR recognized the Palestinian state after it was proclaimed. He added that his country has cordial, strong relations with the PLO that has effectively contributed to the achievement of a permanent, just, and peaceful solution in the region. The GDR official noted that the GDR views the call for a UN-sponsored international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO and Israel, as a realistic path that will lead to peace in the region.

Departs 15 Jan

JN1501182489 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 15, INA—Deputy Vice Chairman of the German Democratic Republic's State Council Mr. Gerald Goetting left Baghdad tonight after a week-long visit to Iraq. He was seen at the airport by a member of the Revolution Command Council and Vice President Mr. Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf and high ranking officials.

Ofeq-1 Satellite To Enter Atmosphere, Burn

TA1401162789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] scientists expect the Israeli satellite Ofeq-1 to enter the upper layers of the atmosphere in the next few hours, after which it will burn up. The satellite was launched about 4 months ago and has orbited in space 118 days, less than expected.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe was told by the IAI people that all the satellite's systems operated normally and that it transmitted data throughout its life span. The figures confirmed the forecasts of the planners, and a lot of information was gathered concerning the atmosphere, the earth's magnetic field, and various other phenomena in space. Israel plans to launch the Ofeq-2 satellite in about 1 and ½ or 2 years.

Satellite Burns Up

TA1401200889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Ofeq-1, the first Israeli satellite, today entered the upper layers of the atmosphere and burned up. The satellite was launched by Israel Aircraft Industries 4 months ago. All its systems operated perfectly. The satellite continuously transmitted data concerning its situation and its orbit. It also gathered data concerning the atmosphere.

Gerasimov on Reopening of Embassy Wing

TA1601203889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Passages within quotation marks in English]

[Text] With the mediation of a Netherlands diplomat, the USSR and Israel are currently negotiating on the reopening of the Israeli Embassy building in Moscow. This was hinted by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov in a special interview, the first of its kind, that he granted Israel's television. Following is a report by our correspondent in Moscow, Yo'av Tocker:

[Begin recording] [Tocker] A 72-hour ping-pong game by telephone took place between various officials in the Soviet Foreign Ministry and myself in this very Stalinistic building in the center of Moscow. Finally, the approval to grant me an interview was received, and I was invited to enter, through a creaking side door, and go up to Mr Gerasimov's office. The talk with him, as will transpire immediately, was conducted in the style of very Moscow-like diplomatic wriggling, with the most sensitive issue being the possible opening of the building that formerly housed the Israeli Embassy in the Soviet capital.

[Gerasimov] "Well, this is your embassy, but we... [changes thought] it's the building, I mean, yes? It's yours, but we do not have diplomatic relations, just as we have a building over there, I guess, somewhere in your country, yes?"

[Tocker] "Would you let the consular mission operate from this building?"

[Gerasimov] "Well, I guess we can solve this problem on practical grounds. Your consular mission is now with the Embassy of Netherlands, yes? So, it's something to be worked out with this embassy, the Embassy of Netherlands, because we don't have diplomatic relations."

[Tocker] "Namely, you see no objections of principle to the reopening of such an embassy on working conditions by Israel?"

[Gerasimov] "It's, it's not going to be reopening of the embassy, if it's going to reopen just to use the facilities."

[Tocker, interrupting] The reopening of the building sometime.

[Gerasimov] "...just to use the facilities. Here, I think it's, it may be negotiated."

[Tocker] The practical interpretation of all these hints, which were made to sound innocent, revolves around the idea of reopening, for the time being, a single wing of the embassy building that we see here, under the diplomatic auspices of the Netherlands Embassy, without having an Israeli flag fly on top of this wing, and without calling it a consulate. [end recording] [Video shows Moscow street scenes, Soviet Foreign Ministry, interview with Gerasimov, and Israeli Embassy building]

Shamir Willing To Accept UN Coordination

TA1701152289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today toured Judaea and Samaria accompanied by the chief of staff. Our correspondent brings excerpts of remarks the prime minister made in addressing a unit of reserve soldiers.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is some sort of arrangement according to which the UN secretary general coordinates the meetings, but negotiations are direct. I have already said: I am willing to agree to such a thing as well, on the condition that there is no UN interference with the content of the talks. We do not trust UN resolutions. We are familiar with them. [end recording]

Shamir: 'Number' of Soviet Advisers Leave Syria

TA1701122489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday told Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter that a substantial number of the Soviet advisers in Syria have recently returned to the Soviet Union. The prime minister believes that the Soviets recalled their soldiers as part of their new policy toward the Third World. Specter arrived in Israel after a visit to Iraq, Jordan, and Syria.

He said his impression is that Al-Asad is the staunchest and most extreme anti-Israeli leader in the region and maintains that Shamir, Golda Meir, and Moshe Dayan said on a number of occasions that Israel's boundaries should stretch from the Nile to the Euphrates. In his reply, Shamir noted that even Al-Asad knows that this is sheer nonsense.

Envoy Decries UK Official's Meeting With 'Arafat

TA1501063189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, who met PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Friday, has come under fierce attack for his advice to Israel to talk to the PLO or face isolation and a risk of further conflict in the region. Jerry Lewis reports from London that the Israeli ambassador and UK Jewish community have voiced their annoyance:

Israel's Ambassador in London Yo'av Biran last night sharply criticized the British minister first for his meeting with 'Arafat and his subsequent outspoken advice to Israel warning of the consequences of refusing to confer with the PLO. Mr Biran pointed out that behind what he called the PLO's charm offensive directed at the West, nothing really has changed within the PLO; it still aims for the so-called secular democratic state in the place of Israel.

Yesterday Minister Waldegrave continued to justify his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat.

[Begin Waldegrave recording] Just as the many of the founding fathers of Israel, including indeed the present prime minister of Israel, were in their time involved in what we at the time described as terrorism, they, also in their time, take to move away from the gun and toward the institutions of peace. So they should have the [word indistinct] to believe that there are people on the Palestinian side who can take the same courageous step. [end recording]

He added that it is historically illogical for Israel to refuse to sit down with the PLO because it was a terrorist group. And to those who ask how he felt sitting with terrorists, he replied by asking how they felt sitting with the heirs of those who killed Lord Moyne.

A hint of the reception Mr Waldegrave will get when he arrives in Israel at the beginning of March, was shown by Mr Biran's statements when the ambassador learnt the minister's comment that Israel will be left behind if it does not realize that the world is changing. Rebuking Mr Waldegrave, he said that the risk of being left behind was more relevant to those claiming to have a role to play, and nevertheless, chose to take a less honest position or engage in an unhelpful political contribution.

Contacts With FRG To Prevent Spread of Weapons

TA1701103389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Israel has begun contacts with the FRG on ways to prevent the spread of chemical weapons and forestall aid to other countries in this field. The Foreign Ministry spokesman made this statement in Jerusalem in reply to a question by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami in the wake of German press reports about extensive aid by German firms and figures in the establishment of the chemical warfare manufacturing plant in Libya.

The reports also alleged that German experts have helped improve the flight capability of Libyan jet fighters to enable them to reach Israel. The spokesman stated that Israel has taken note and takes a very serious view of the German finance minister's remarks about German firms involved in the construction of the plant in Libya. He added that although private firms are involved, governments must step up their supervision and close the loopholes in this sensitive issue.

FRG Involvement 'Abhorrent'

TA1701115889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says the fact that West Germans are involved in Libya's chemical warfare department is abhorrent. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Moshe Arens how he views the West German role not only in producing Libya's chemical weapons, but also helping the Libyan Air Force to extend its range.

[Begin recording] [Arens] Well, first of all, I have to remind you that Western European countries have made it a habit of supplying the most advanced armaments at their disposal to Arab countries that insist that they are in a state of war with Israel.

But the fact that German companies have been involved on such a large scale in supplying equipment—and equipment of a nonconventional nature, equipment to be used to establish a chemical warfare capability to Libya, a country that is not considered to be in a list of normal states, and a country that insists that it is in a state of war with Israel, and a country that has utilized chemical warfare in the fighting in Chad—is an abhorrent thing to us. We take it very, very seriously, and we will do everything we can to put a stop to this kind of activity.

[Katzenell] What is Israel going to do about this?

[Arens] Whatever we can do about it, of course, will be done in contacts with the West German Government. [end recording]

Arens: Residents' Needs Must Be Considered

TA1701140089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today that any Israeli peace initiative must take into account the aspirations of the Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip as well as Israel's aspirations and its security needs. Minister Arens said this during a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Arye Golan reports from the Knesset:

At the conclusion of the meeting, after briefing the participants on his talks in Paris and listening to their remarks, Minister Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee his opinion regarding the expected Israeli peace initiative; namely, that there is room for an Israeli initiative and that we do not have to steadfastly adhere to all our past positions, thereby erecting a stone wall and never changing anything.

In Arens' opinion the initiative should consist of three elements: 1) Direct negotiations should be demanded unless we want to find ourselves pushed into a corner; 2) An interim settlement must be achieved before any permanent agreement; 3) Any Israeli initiative must address both the aspirations of the Israeli people and their security requirements, and the aspirations of the Palestinians residing in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Minister Arens told Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party that he did not present any new peace initiative during his stay abroad. He said that the government was currently formulating its positions on the issue. Knesset Member Porat had previously complained that despite being a member of the coalition he was completely uninformed regarding the new peace initiative. He had said that if the Likud could not stand guard over Eretz Yisra'el he might have to draw the necessary conclusions.

Yosi Sarid of the Citizen's Rights Movement was quite pleased. He said at the beginning of the meeting, even before Arens specified the elements of his preferred peace initiative, that Shamir's peace initiative no longer differs much from his own ideas. Sarid said that Prime Minister Shamir's peace initiative already includes an international gathering, involvement of the two superpowers, UN auspices by means of the UN secretary general, and even elections in the territories with a clear knowledge of who will be elected. This is an advancement that should be encouraged, said Sarid, who feels that only a readiness to include the PLO in the negotiations is missing.

Arens firmly rejected the notion of negotiations with the PLO, but said that the state of the population and the territory on which it resides would be discussed in the course of negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The left wing representatives on the committee were therefore greatly encouraged by the foreign minister's statements. These statements immediately caused serious concern among the right wingers in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 17 January also carries a report on Arens' remarks at the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, adding: "Minister Arens said today that his talk with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Paris was very friendly. Minister Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the summations reached in that talk regarding the institutionalizing of political ties, as well as the Israeli aid to Armenia and help in the hijacked plane affair, are leading, at a pace that is not too slow, toward improved relations with the Soviet Union, which may lead to a full normalization.

The foreign minister also said that progress toward improvement has been noted in our relations with the PRC, albeit at a slower rate."]

Reportage on EC Delegations' Visit to Israel

Spanish Minister Arrives

TA1401211589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who is the chairman by rotation of the EEC Foreign Ministers Council, came to Israel this evening. Upon his arrival he said that he has not brought a European initiative with him and that he has no intention of exerting pressure on Israel. He emphasized that his visit is a fact-finding tour and that he has arrived as a friend of Israel and as a representative of the EEC countries, which are friendly toward Israel and its people. Tomorrow the Spanish guest will meet the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister. On Monday he will meet the vice prime minister.

Shamir Meets Spanish Minister

TA1501171989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today repeated Israel's position, noting its readiness for direct negotiations with the Arab countries and with Palestinian representatives from Judaea and Samaria, and its readiness to use the good offices of the two major superpowers or the UN secretary general toward this, provided that they do not interfere in the course of the talks. Shamir made these remarks during a meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who is the rotational chairman of the EC foreign ministers.

Shamir To Visit Spain

TA1501195389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez today invited Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to visit Spain on his way back from the United States. The prime minister accepted the invitation. In his meeting today with the prime minister, the Spanish minister said he did not come here to pressure Israel, but to talk.

The prime minister said that the PLO has recently scored public relations achievements, but claimed that that organization has not changed its policy. Mr Shamir again reiterated Israel's readiness to use the good offices of the two superpowers or the UN secretary general to conduct direct negotiations with the regional countries and Palestinian representatives.

Minister Meets Palestinians

TA1601054189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who is the rotational chairman of the EC foreign ministers, yesterday met with six Palestinian notables from the territories. The meeting took place at the Spanish consulate in East Jerusalem. A professor from Nabulus Al-Najah University, Bi'r Zayt University President Jabi Baramaki, and Arab Journalists Association Chairman Radwan Abu 'Ayyash were among the notables attending the meeting.

The issues discussed at the meeting included the international conference, 'Arafat's visit to Madrid this month, Europe's role in negotiations in the Middle East, and the possibility of elections in the territories.

The Spanish minister stressed that although the PLO enjoys almost diplomatic status in Spain, his country will act in accordance with the consensus achieved in the EC.

Arens Meets Spanish Minister

TA1601115389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] This morning, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez conferred in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Fernandez-Ordonez, who is the current chairman of the EC commission, said he had come to exchange views and learn about possibilities for progress in the Middle East peace process, not to present a European peace plan.

Minister Arens stressed Israel's need for secure borders. Our reporter says he told the visitor Israel is a democracy surrounded by totalitarian states with huge armies, and Israel expects the European communities to treat the Jewish state as part of the democratic world.

Voice of Israel political affairs reporter 'Oded Ben-'Ami recorded the impressions of both ministers.

[Begin recording] [Arens] We had some very good meetings yesterday and today, a very good exchange of views. The foreign minister of Spain, of course, heard our exposition of the situation and some of our ideas. I was very interested in hearing some of his ideas. I think we made progress.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you bring any new European plan for an initiative?

[Fernandez-Ordonez] I don't bring any new plan. I come here to inform, to be informed, not to make any kind of pressure, and to know what the Israeli Government is thinking on the situation. We don't bring any kind of new initiative. [end recording]

EC Planning Conference

TA1501153089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] The EC is initiating a Middle East parliamentary peace conference to take place in May or June. The participants in that conference will come from the 22 EC member country parliaments, and will also include delegates from the Knesset, the PNC, and from the legislatures of the United States, the USSR, and the PRC. The proposal was welcomed by Egypt and Jordan, but was coolly received in Damascus. The above was reported by Miguel Angel Martinez, head of the EC delegation and member of the Spanish Cortes, during the delegates' first meeting with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens at the Knesset this afternoon.

The EC delegation arrived in Israel today via Allenby Bridge after visiting the three Arab countries mentioned above. The delegates also conferred with Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo.

EC Conference Rejected

TA1601155589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Representatives of the Likud and the Alignment on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee are rejecting an EC invitation for the convening of a parliamentary conference for a Middle East settlement if PLO representatives participate in it. They said this in a debate in the Knesset with an EC delegation. Miguel Angel Martinez from Spain, head of the delegation, told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that it seems to him that the conference should take place despite the gap in the parties' positions. He added that remarks made to the delegation by Ministers Moshe Arens and Shim'on Peres indicate that Israel and the Arabs have a common ground, that of achieving a peace treaty.

Arens Meets Diplomats

TA1501180689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] According to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Israel is putting the final touches on its peace plan; he may present its main points in the United States in February. For the moment, however, Arens heard about initiatives conceived elsewhere. Today he conferred with the Spanish foreign minister, who is serving as the current chairman of the council of EC foreign ministers. Arens also met with a delegation of EC representatives. Gid'on Remez reports that during his meetings with the European visitors, Arens did not detail Israel's intentions, but warned them lest their efforts cause damage.

[Begin recording] [Remez] All the many European guests who have come to our region have done so out of feelings of friendship, said Minister Arens. They are accorded a similar attitude. We have been responding to their show of friendship in kind.

[Arens] Nearly every one of the European delegates I have met mentioned the desire to contribute something, somehow, toward the peace process. We are happy to meet with them and hear their views and advice. Nevertheless, in the final analysis, the peace process will have to be conducted in direct negotiations.

[Remez] Arens told the Europeans that their latest initiatives and the legitimacy they have granted 'Arafat by meeting with him are counterproductive and do not contribute toward that goal.

[Arens] I do not believe that this helps the peace process. On the contrary. I think it strengthens extremism and violence.

[Remez] The EC delegates held a 2-hour meeting with 'Arafat in Cairo. Delegation head Miguel Angel Martinez from Spain said that in Cairo and Amman the delegation was warmly received and was favorably impressed. Only in Damascus was the attitude suspicious and chilly—even with regard to the EC proposal of holding a parliamentary peace conference in the spring. That conference will include representatives from the 22 European countries who are members of the EC, Israel, the PNC, and the three major non-European superpowers. Arens's reaction to this was that the Knesset should decide whether or not to accept the invitation. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 15 January broadcasts a recorded interview in English with Martinez after his meeting with Arens, in which he says: "Let us say that we are somehow optimistic, though we have to complete the impression. To have a global impression, we have to see the Israeli partner in this field because the opinion of the ones and the others must be put together. Now, the impression was very positive in what refers to the meetings we had in Egypt and in Jordan, and I have just answered—responding to the end of the meeting with Mr Arens—that I didn't find essential contradictions. I find that there are fields of understanding. So after the first impression here in Israel, say that I don't feel pessimistic.

"The meetings in Syria were of less high profile than in the three other countries that we have visited. Therefore, perhaps everything that we'll conclude needs to be matched with what is the real and the genuine Syrian view on the question. I say that the Syrian positions are more hermetic, more difficult to understand, really; what are behind every word has to be analyzed and interpreted." Martinez adds, in answer to a question, that he did not bring any message to Israel.]

Peres Meets Delegation

TA1601210589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, today met with the EC delegation members currently in Israel as guests of the Knesset. The delegation arrived in Israel from a tour of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In the meeting, the finance minister said that there are two opinions in the Israeli Government on settling the Middle East conflict, and each side is insisting on its opinion. At the same time, Shim'on Peres said, the key point underlying the government's basic guidelines is the drive for peace. It is impossible, the finance minister said, to impose the Camp David accords on those who refuse to accept them—namely, on the Palestinians. He added that it is about time that the Palestinians' leaders meet with us openly, in broad daylight, and without loaded guns.

The EC delegation today also met with the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and its members will return to their countries tomorrow.

Explosives Safely Detonated at Embassy in London

TA1601153289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] A package containing explosives reached the Israeli Embassy in London today. The explosives were safely detonated. This is reported by our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum. The police are warning the public against envelopes or packages with explosives that may arrive from abroad. The public is called upon to exercise caution and inform the police at once of any mail from an unknown address or that bears suspicious signs. Such mail should not be opened, but rather removed to a safe place.

Rabin Reports Same Plastic Bullets in Use

TA1701121389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israeli troops are using the same plastic bullets as they started with to disperse rock throwers in the territories. Speaking to Bonds leaders in Jerusalem and later to reporters, the defense minister spelled out Israel's policy in the territories and also said that Israel now views Libya as one of its most dangerous potential enemies. David Essing reports:

Defense Minister Rabin says that not only officers, but selected NCO's are now authorized to use plastic bullets against stone throwers while caught in the act or running away; secondly, a more rapid system of trial before a military judge. [sentence as heard] More measures will be taken against parents, and emergency regulations will be used against the property of stone throwers.

The defense minister attributes the recent rise in disorders to the opening of high schools in the territories.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Schools that will repeat stone throwing—I refer to high schools—will be closed—and we have closed several schools. We are not talking about elementary schools, because there the number of stone throwing is very limited.

[Essing] Is it true that the new plastic bullets are proving to be more lethal, and that is also reason for the high casualties?

[Rabin] No, it is the same plastic bullet that we have started to use. There is no change in it. [end recording]

Rabin adds that plastic or rubber bullets can be lethal at close range.

[Begin Rabin recording] Rubber bullet is bullet which is used by most of police forces all over the world. Plastic bullet is additional range to the rubber bullet. Both are used mainly within limitations of range and the one that is authorized to use them... [changes thought] But in a close contact, when there is a danger, even a rubber bullet can kill. [end recording]

The overall goal was to bring about a level of tranquillity that would enable relatively normal life in the territories. He did not believe the Supreme Court would approve the deportation of stone throwers.

Asked about Libya's production of chemical weapons and the role of the West Germans, Rabin replied that Israel has known about the chemical weapons and the Libyan attempt to extend the range of its targets, including Israel. The defense minister said: We took it into consideration, not from today. Therefore, we consider Libya to be one of our most dangerous potential enemies.

[Begin Rabin recording] I am sure—and we have tried to make it clear and will continue to try to make it clear to the Arab countries' leaders—that Israel is not Iran, and whoever would dare to use this kind of weapons against Israeli military units or against Israeli civilian targets will be clobbered 100 times, if not more. Israel will not tolerate even thinking about the use of this kind of means against us. [end recording]

'Notables' in Territories on 'Arafat Initiative

TA1401204189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Notables in the territories who are identified with the mainstream PLO are divided in their opinions regarding Yasir 'Arafat's support for elections in the territories under UN supervision. In an Israel Television news program in Arabic, Prof Riyad al-Ar'a of Gaza supported elections in the territories on the condition that they do not constitute the end of the process toward the growth of a Palestinian leadership that could speak with Israel. Bayt Sahur Mayor Hanna al-Atrash, on the other hand, believes that no elections should be held in the territories.

Fayiz Abu Rahmah, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, said that the participation of representatives from the territories in a temporary PLO government is possible and that there are several candidates in the territories for participation in such a government.

Further on Casualties, Incidents in Territories

Hebron Casbah Closed

TA1301124289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Riots took place in the Hebron casbah this morning, when armed settlers fired in the air after being pelted with stones. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the disturbances began when several Israeli cars were stoned on the main street of Hebron, in the vicinity of the Makhpelah Cave. Drivers and passengers left their cars and fired in the air.

Jewish settlers in Hebron charge that similar incidents take place each Friday in the same location near the Makhpelah Cave. In the wake of this morning's incident, several armed settlers arrived to patrol the site. Inside the Hebron casbah, they were pelted with stones and fired in the air. Local Arabs also stoned army positions near Bet Romano and the Makhpelah Cave. In response, the soldiers fired plastic bullets, wounding two of the stone throwers. A Border Policeman was slightly injured by a flying stone.

Hebron casbah merchants charged that settlers threatened them, warning them against throwing stones, and fired in the air. A Border Police unit arrived at the site and closed down the casbah.

Hebron residents have said that in the process of the incidents in Hebron, a 17-year-old youth sustained a head injury from gunfire, while his mother was wounded in the leg. They were transferred to the Dar al-Mughrabi Hospital in Hebron.

5 Wounded 13 Jan

TA1301180989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Four people were wounded in disturbances in Nabulus this afternoon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in the 'Askar refugee camp three people were wounded, among them a woman who suffered serious wounds. In Nabulus itself a youth was wounded in the leg. The four were transferred to a Nabulus hospital. Nabulus is currently under curfew.

In the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip a man was wounded when the security forces dispersed a demonstration.

Gaza Strip Youth Dies

TA1301144889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] A 15-year old youth from the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died yesterday from wounds suffered during a disturbance. Our correspondent Arye Gus learned from military sources that an IDF patrol operating in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp was attacked with stones. The soldiers pursued the stone throwers and after a short chase found themselves in a situation in which there was danger to their lives. The commander of the force fired at one of the rioters, seriously wounding him. The youth was transferred to a Jerusalem hospital [as heard] where he died.

Girl Wounded in Gaza Violence

TA1301195389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A 15-year old youth, Muhammad al-Sahlub, from the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, died in the Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem early this morning. He was wounded by IDF soldiers during disturbances yesterday. After the camp's inhabitants learned about his death, riots broke out and a girl was wounded in the head by a rubber bullet. As a result of the incident the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp was placed under curfew.

West Bank Youth Killed

TA1301203089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] A 15-year old youth, Nabil Ahmad Abu Laban, was killed during disturbances in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem this afternoon. People in the camp say he was shot by IDF soldiers. Another youth was wounded in the incident. The youth's family snatched the body from the hospital and took it for burial in the refugee camp. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the report from the hospital and the circumstances of the incident are being examined.

Golan Heights Unrest Noted

TA1401090289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] An internal Education Ministry memo says that open anti-Israeli activity is taking place in Druze schools on the Golan Heights. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the memo says that the activity is expressed in the publication of manifestos, participation in processions and demonstrations against the State of Israel, and the flying of Syrian pennants and flags within the school grounds.

The Education Ministry is trying to fight the phenomena by lectures to the students and the firing of several extremist teachers each year. The memo also says that the security forces' failure to take tough punitive measures against the instigators is viewed by the inhabitants as a sign of weakness and as providing legitimacy for continued extremism in the Golan Heights.

Nabulus Girl Dies

TA1401092989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Ra'nan al-Masri, a 15-year-old Nabulus girl, who was wounded a week ago during unrest in the Rafidiyah neighborhood, died this morning at the Al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem.

A general strike, which includes school studies, was declared in Nabulus as a sign of mourning over the girl's death, but our correspondent Arye Gus reports that some shops have been reopened. A 15-year-old boy was shot in the leg by IDF gunfire, another report from Nabulus said.

The curfew clamped on Tulkarm Thursday night following unrest there is continuing.

Al-Shati' Girl Dies

TA1401131989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Handi Abu Sultan, a 12-year-old girl from the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, died in Tel Hashomer Hospital last night. The girl was wounded when the security forces dispersed a riot in the camp 4 days ago. Our correspondent Hasan Abu Zayid reports that the girl sustained a bullet wound in the head.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two refugee camps in Rafah were put under curfew this morning.

Riots in East Jerusalem

TA1401164389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Distubances occurred today in several East Jerusalem neighborhoods and adjoining villages. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that rioters were dispersed with tear gas on Al-Hariri Street in East Jerusalem and in the village of Jabal al-Mukabar.

15 Wounded in Gaza Riots

TA1401172689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] There were many disturbances today in the Gaza Strip. Local inhabitants reported that 15 youths were wounded by IDF soldiers' shots. Military sources say that the IDF is aware of only seven wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that one of the wounded, from Rafah, was taken to an Israeli hospital because of his serious condition. Rafah was put under curfew. The curfew is still in effect in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and in Dayr al-Balah.

Last night a 12-year-old girl from the Al-Shati' refugee camp died in Tel Hashomer Hospital. She was wounded 4 days ago during a disturbance in the camp.

In Gaza, a commercial strike was declared today in protest against the high tax rates imposed on the inhabitants and against what was termed as the toughness of customs officials.

Boy Wounded as Bus Stoned

TA1401205389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] A boy sustained a slight head wound this evening when a stone was thrown at a No 28 bus traveling through the junction of Ben-Yosef and Barazani Streets in the Armon Haneziv neighborhood in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that several of the bus's windows were smashed.

Curfew Imposed on Gaza Camps

TA1501085689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] A preemptive curfew has been imposed on all Gaza Strip refugee camps because of the general strike that is being staged in the territories today to commemorate Al-Aqsa day. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reporting:

The 3-day commercial strike in the Gaza Strip was this morning coupled with a general strike to commemorate Al-Aqsa day; what the local organizations in the territories term the day of Jewish damage to the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The military government reacted to the expected strike with a general curfew imposed on all eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, calling it a preemptive measure. Many of the refugee camps' residents, however, had already left them last night for work in Israel and even slept at the work locations.

The commercial strike in the Gaza cities is complete, and public transportation and education are also not operating normally. The rain that started falling a short while ago in Gaza helped put out burning tires that were placed in several junctions at the entrances to the city this morning.

Youth Killed; Schools Closed

TA1501092089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpts] This morning an 18-year-old youth was killed in the Farah refugee camp in Samaria in a violent clash with IDF soldiers. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. [passage omitted]

The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has closed several schools because of riots that took place in them. Among others, two schools were closed in the Al-Jalazun refugee camp, one in Hebron, and a number of schools were closed in Tulkarm. The Civil Administration made clear that if riots in schools continue they might endanger the whole school year.

Rafah Youth Dies

TA1501101789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] A youth wounded yesterday in a riot in the NPK [as heard] refugee camp in Rafah died in Tel Hashomer Hospital last night. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. [passage omitted]

2 Dead, 8 Injured 15 Jan

TA1501193989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Two people were killed and eight wounded in violent demonstrations in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District today. All Gaza Strip refugee camps were under curfew. In Judaea and Samaria there was a general commercial strike today and Nabulus, Tulkarm, and other areas were declared off-limits to the press.

More on 15 Jan Incidents

TA1601141389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 89 pp 1, 9

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] One Arab was killed and at least 25 others were wounded in violent demonstrations during a general strike yesterday in the administered territories to mark "Al-Aqsa Day." [passage omitted]

Muhammad Abushi, 18, of Farah refugee camp in Samaria, was shot in the chest during a clash with soldiers and died in hospital of his wounds.

'Ayyad Radwan, 17, of Rafah died yesterday at Tel Hashomer hospital of wounds in his head sustained on Saturday during a clash with the IDF.

A 42-year-old woman from Farah with beating bruises on her chest received medical treatment in Nabulus hospital.

Four persons were shot at 'Askar refugee camp east of Nabulus and nine others were reportedly hit by rubber bullets, though the IDF spokesman put the number at three.

'Aynan Abu Nakhla, 15, from the Al-Duhayshah camp in Bethlehem, was seriously wounded in the stomach during a violent demonstration after two days of curfew. The IDF spokesman had no information about an incident in the camp.

A 14-year-old boy from Sammu' the South Hebron Hills was brought to the 'Aliya Hospital in Hebron with a gunshot wound in his stomach.

Four rioters—two according to the IDF—were reported wounded in Silwad, east of Ramallah.

A 16-year-old boy was shot and wounded while stoning soldiers in Janin.

Samir Jibril, 5, from the Al-'Ayn refugee camp near Nabulus, was hit on the head with a rifle butt on Saturday, suffering a skull fracture, according to the camp's UNRWA director. A woman who was a sole witness to the incident told the director that soldiers on patrol were being stoned and they hit Jibril. The Al-Maqasid hospital officials told the boy's parents that his life was not in danger. The IDF spokesman said he did not know of the incident.

A curfew remained in force in Tulkarm.

The Gaza Strip was quiet yesterday, except for a few clashes, according to Palestinian and military sources. All eight refugee camps were under curfew.

One person was wounded in Rafah, and a 17-year-old girl from the Zaytun neighbourhood in Gaza, who was hit in the eye by a rubber bullet, was treated in hospital. [passage omitted]

Curfews Updated 16 Jan

TA1601075889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The curfews in the Gaza Strip refugee camps have been eased. Curfews were lifted in four of the camps, but remained in effect in the Rafah, Al-Shati', and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps.

Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that a 28-year-old Gaza Strip resident was brought to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon with gunshot wounds this morning. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his injury.

The curfew in the East Jerusalem village of Silwan will be lifted in a few hours.

1 Killed, 1 Hurt in Hebron

TA1601082989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] A 16-year-old Arab youth was killed and another wounded in a violent confrontation with IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident occurred at the Haruz junction in Hebron.

The curfew in the East Jerusalem village of Silwan was lifted a short while ago. Our police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that after a 5-day curfew, numerous Silwan residents are at this time hurrying to work and food stores.

Assistant Commander Roni Tisson, the Jerusalem Border Police commander, told our correspondent that over 30 suspected rioters were detained during the curfew. He stressed that the police may reimpose the curfew, or take other drastic measures, if the village residents again resort to riots or disturbances.

The curfews in most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps were lifted this morning, with the exception of Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, and two Rafah neighborhoods.

In Judaea and Samaria, the curfew in Tulkarm and the neighboring refugee camps is entering its 5th day. In the Nur al-Shams refugee camp on the Tulkarm-Nabulus road, soldiers are mending the fence preventing the stoning of Israeli vehicles.

Khan Yunus Youth Dies

TA1601102089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] A 17-year-old resident of Khan Yunus died this morning at Tel Hashomer Hospital of wounds sustained 2 days ago in the process of a violent riot. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youth, Ahmad Muhammad Abu Mustafa, sustained severe injuries during the disturbances in Khan Yunus on Saturday [14 January]. He was transferred to a local hospital and later to Tel Hashomer, where he died of his wounds this morning. [passage omitted]

More Wounded in West Bank

TA1601185789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Jerusalem police detained several people suspected of having hurled a Molotov cocktail at an Egged bus in the Al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood early this evening. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that two of them, ages 15 and 16, are suspected of more serious things. The driver of the bus, Jilbert Benita, was wounded slightly, and the bus was almost completely gutted.

Egged company directors in Jerusalem say that lately they have begun to provide a means of protection to all buses traveling through Arab neighborhoods. According to them, since the beginning of the uprising, more than 13 months ago, about 2,000 buses have been damaged by Molotov cocktails, most of them in Jerusalem.

An Arab youth was killed and at least six were wounded in disturbances in Judaea and Samaria today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youth was killed in a violent incident in Hebron this morning, in which two of his friends were wounded. A while later, another incident developed in that town, leading to the injury of another youth as a result of soldiers' fire. Two children and an 18-year-old youth were wounded by IDF fire in Nabulus. The curfew in Tulkarm is continuing for the 5th consecutive day.

Five Gazans Wounded

TA1601194089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Five Arab youths were wounded in the Gaza Strip today when IDF soldiers dispersed rallies. Three were wounded at the Al-Burayj refugee camp, and two in the town of Khan Yunus. It was reported that they sustained slight to medium injuries. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that the curfew on two refugee camps and on two neighborhoods in Gaza is continuing.

Monthly Casualties Noted

TA1601210189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The number of people wounded since the uprising in the territories began reached a record last month: 492. The number of dead is 26. This was announced by the IDF spokesman. Wide political circles are leveling criticism in view of these figures. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports:

[Begin video recording] [Shlonsky] The number of those killed in the territories last month was 26, almost as many as during the early days of the uprising. The number of wounded reached a new record: 492—more than in any other month of the uprising. The large number of casualties has given rise to questions among Cabinet ministers as well.

[Ehud Olmert, minister without portfolio] I think that the number of casualties is distressing. From the moral point of view, this is a problem, naturally. From the practical-political point of view, it makes it very difficult for us to cope with the problem of the intifadah [uprising] in the international arena.

[Moshe Shahal, energy and infrastructure minister] The phenomenon we are witnessing today is that the the wave of riots and incidents is not stopping despite the fact that there are casualties almost daily, routinely. This compels the government to dedicate special thought to how to tackle the problem, and which solution is appropriate for such a phenomenon.

[Shlonsky] There is no talk of mass incidents any longer. According to the defense minister's remarks in the Cabinet, today the IDF is allowed to fire plastic or rubber bullets at stone throwers also after they escape from the scene of the incident, after having already thrown the stones. This, among other things, explains the rise in the number of casualties. The expectations that the Algiers conference would lead to calm have not materialized. On the contrary, the areas are not quiet, the number of confrontations has increased, and the number of dead and wounded has also risen in the wake of the use of plastic and new-type rubber bullets.

[Olmert] I definitely support the use of force. When the use of force is vital, my congratulations are extended to the soldiers who fire when attacked. Nevertheless, there should be some sort of an overall policy. Otherwise, the procedures on the opening of fire become a policy in themselves, and I am not sure this is the best result from the point of view of Israeli interests. [end recording]

European Parliamentary Group Visits Amman

Delegation Arrives 11 Jan

JN1101130689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] A European parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman today for talks with Jordanian officials as part of a Middle East tour. The delegation from the Council of Europe, led by Mr Miguel Martinez, comprises parliamentarians from France, Britain, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Turkey, Portugal, and West Germany.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, Mr Martinez commended Jordan's role in boosting Middle East peace efforts. He said his majesty the king's efforts have given momentum to current peace efforts efforts, adding that the majority of world nations have unanimously agreed to the holding of an international Middle East peace conference, which prompted European parliaments to take the initiative and act in this regard.

He said the first step in this direction would be the convening of an international parliamentary conference in Strasbourg during March or June with the participation of delegates from the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and representatives from the Palestine National Council and Israel.

He said the Council of Europe strongly supported a UN-sponsored Middle East peace conference involving all parties to the conflict for solving the Palestinian problem.

Mr Martinez said the members of the delegation were looking forward to meeting his majesty the king to listen to his advice on how the European Council could contribute in pushing the Middle East peace process ahead. The Council comprises members from 23 European nations.

Received by King Husayn

JN1101180489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Arab-Israeli dispute needs no new peace initiatives but a responsive stand by all parties to international resolutions in order to implement them and resolve the Palestine question in all its aspects.

This was asserted by his majesty when he received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Lord Henry Plumb, president of the European Parliament, and the accompanying delegation carrying out a fact-finding tour of the region to call for an international parliamentary conference on the Middle East problem in preparation for the convocation for an international conference for peace, as well as a delegation from the Middle East subcommittee set up by the Council of Europe.

His majesty said that parties to the dispute as well as world peace should not continue as hostages for a party defying international legitimacy. What is required, his majesty added, is for Israel to rise up to the PLO by responding to the call of peace and accepting international terms for achieving peace, as did the PLO. His majesty affirmed that no party is entitled to represent the Palestinians and speak on their behalf other than the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He praised the responsible Palestinian stand, which should be supported by a unified and concerted Arab stand.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed satisfaction with Jordanian-PLO relations, which are now based on confidence and a solid ground of close cooperation.

Reviewing the current situation in the region, his majesty expressed optimism that the state of international relaxation between the two superpowers which enabled them to resolve many issues directly affecting world peace and security within a short period of time must incorporate the Middle East region. This region deserves special international interest because of the absence of peace in it and the presence of various destructive weapons. This is internationally important from both strategic and economic angles.

His majesty added: The world must know that the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory reflects their determination to maintain their identity, dignity, and freedom on their national soil. It is important to realize that there are radicals on both sides who do not desire peace and attempt through various methods to undermine sincere efforts to achieve peace in this area. His majesty pointed out in this regard that the Arab welcome of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war is coupled with a warning that the situation might turn into a truce instead of being a prelude for a comprehensive peace aspired to by all the Arabs.

Speaking about Lebanon, his majesty stressed the need to tackle the Lebanese problem in order to return Lebanon to its normal state in terms of national unity and sovereignty over its territory after reaching the edge of collapse because of the gradual erosion of its institutions which make up the Lebanese state.

Speaking on international terrorism, his majesty said that Jordan, which was a target for terrorism, stands strongly and firmly against terrorism in all its forms. He affirmed that fighting terrorism requires sincere international cooperation.

Concluding his remarks, His Majesty King Husayn paid tribute to the European role and described it as very important for the achievement of peace in the Middle East. He said Jordan is committed to close cooperation with Europe in supporting issues of freedom and democracy.

In reply, the president of the European Parliament expressed amity, respect, and appreciation on behalf of his delegation and the European people. He expressed the European Parliament's solidarity with and support for Jordan and for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts, in particular for his majesty's honesty, integrity, consistency of stands, rationality, and valor. He said: Our tour comes to crystalyze certain ideas which, clearly, would be incomplete and purposeless without getting acquainted with your majesty's far-sighted, wise, and comprehensive viewpoints.

The delegation invited Jordan to participate in an international parliamentary conference including the 23 European nations, the 2 superpowers, the area states, and the PNC in order to discuss the Middle East and pave the way for the convocation of an international conference for peace. The two meetings were attended by the Senate president, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and his majesty's personal adviser.

Plumb Meets Al-Rifa'i

JN1101190289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i conferred at his office today with the visiting president of the European Parliament in the presence of the Senate speaker, Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi. Discussions dealt with the Middle East peace developments and ways to achieve peace in the region.

Lord Plumb said the European Community believes that a just and durable peace in the Middle East requires the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The prime minister voiced the government's thanks to the European Community's positive attitude concerning the latest Middle East developments. He welcomed further cooperation between Jordan and the European Community.

Lord Plumb and the accompanying delegation arrived in Amman this morning on a 3-day visit to Jordan.

Plumb Meets Al-Lawzi

JN1101193689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that the recent developments in the Middle East and the international approach toward peace and resolving regional disputes should include the Middle East issue. During his meeting with the president of the European Parliament today, the Senate speaker said that Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn's leadership, works with persistent efforts in the Arab and international arenas to convene the international peace conference, which we consider the basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The Senate president touched on the brave uprising of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. He said: The children's revolution that you saw during your visit to the occupied West Bank represents a practical reaction to the occupation and a condemnation of the loathsome Israeli practices. Al-Lawzi said that Israel should respond to the international tendency to save the region from the whirlpool of conflict and tension, and its rulers must be aware of the dimensions of the future of the region and the coming generations.

Lord Plumb said that His Majesty King Husayn was able through wisdom, clarity, and objectivity, to explain the dimensions of the Middle East problem in his speech that he delivered at the European Parliament at the beginning of the eighties in which he predicted many events that are now being materialized on the ground. The speech was one of the most important speeches at the Parliament since its foundation.

Lord Plumb added that the European Community views with great respect the efforts being exerted by his majesty to convene the international conference and achieve peace in the region. Lord Plumb noted that the European parliamentarians' views are completely identical with Jordan's and the Arab countries' views with regard to the coming peace steps.

Lord Plumb and his accompanying delegation arrived in Amman by King Husayn Bridge today on a 3-day visit to Jordan.

Lord Plumb Addresses Banquet

JN1201213489 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Last night, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi said at a banquet in honor of the European parliamentarians that a united Europe represents a power and a guarantee for peace. This peace, he said, is needed not only for the Middle East people but also for the world in general. Mr al-Lawzi said Jordan was totally committed to a peaceful settlement on the basis of land in exchange for peace.

He said Israel alone insists on its stubborn stand and continues to deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Mr al-Lawzi pointed to Israel's expansionist policies in the Arab region and its atrocities in the occupied territories. He urged Europe to play a vital role to bring about peace.

In reply to Mr al-Lawzi's speech, the head of the European Parliament, Lord Plumb, reaffirmed that Europe was determined to pursue the quest for peace. Lord

Plumb said a Middle East settlement must be based on the right of self-determination for the Palestinians and the recognition of the right for Israel to exist.

[Begin Plumb recording] Even after a very short time in the Middle East, I've been most impressed by the urgency of the Palestinian question and the seriousness of the situation in the territories occupied by Israel and the need to engage quickly in genuine discussions to achieve a durable peace.

I had the opportunity yesterday of speaking to the Knesset in Jerusalem, and I made my position absolutely clear on the importance and urgency of this issue. To an outsider the problem seems quite intractable. Yet, of course, this is a time of hope. Perhaps for the first time in a generation there is a historic opportunity—an opportunity therefore that none of us can afford to let go by. I say that because I have been receiving some encourgaing developments:

Firstly, the sustained efforts by His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and the significant gesture over the West Bank, which have been a catalyst for progress.

Secondly, the decions which have been adopted by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers and the acceptance of the Security Council resolutions—resolutions that are almost written on our hearts—of 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference have opened the door towards the convening of such a conference. We support it.

Thirdly, the United States Government has initiated a substantive dialogue with the PLO, opening the possibility for a real peace process in the Middle East.

And so, we are set fair if we follow that particular route. And, against this background, the European Community recognizes that it has a political and it has a moral responsibility that it contribute towards a resolution of the Middle East problem. It is a responsibility we will not shirk. It is a responsibility to which the council, the commission, the parliament, and the ministries in political cooperation are firmly committed.

Mr President, we are not here to dictate; we are not here to give advice. We are here to help. We are here to offer our support—the support which I hope is seen in that light, in one of importance in trying to grapple with this very complex problem.

We have, as you know, in the European Community a common voice, and I believe we have a very balanced approach to the present situation here. The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, now in its 2d year, has renewed world attention on this problem. And without the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, there can be no lasting peace for the countries in this region. The right of self-determination will only be a reality when Israel's right to secure existence is also guaranteed.

And so when I addressed the Knesset, I emphasized that the perpetuation of existing policies in the occupied territories could only hold out the prospect of escalating violence. And I believe that there is a time for peace, and I believe that that time is now.

I urge that negotiations take place now. Israel must engage in dialogue. And so, none of us know what will be revealed in the refining fire of negotiations, but the European Community will be watching most attentively and with comprehension. We believe that we have identified the key elements of an acceptable agreement, and we stand ready to participate in and support the efforts of an international confernce to provide a lasting peace in the region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Delegation Meets PNC Figures

JN1401201289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The head of the subcommittee on the Middle East stemming from the political committee of the European Parliament and the accompanying delegation have visited the PNC headquarters in Amman.

PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and the head of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee, Khalid al-Hasan, reviewed the most important resolutions of the PNC, which was held in Algiers in November.

The PNC speaker stressed that the Palestinian people have accepted the principle of peaceful coexistence in the region. He expressed hope that the European states will contribute to achieving a comprehensive peace in the region through convening the international conference.

Delegation Departs

JN1301210289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Lord Henry Plumb, chairman of the European Parliamentary Council, and the accompanying delegation today left Amman following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn. He also met with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi.

Lord Plumb also held talks that dealt with developments in the Palestinian question following Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank; the PNC resolutions, which provided the conditions and requirements for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region; the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue; and international detente.

Talks also dealt with the constants of the Jordanian position on the subject of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the principles of exchanging territory for peace; recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights; convening the international conference as the only canopy that provides peace, which is guaranteed by the major powers of the UN Security Council, and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The delegation was seen off by Senator Muhammad Kamal; Hani Khayr, secretry general of the Parliament; and the British ambassador in Amman.

Paper on King's Statement

JN1201094789 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Peace Under the UN Umbrella"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's statement during his meeting with Lord Henry Plumb, president of the European Parliament, and the delegation accompanying him, accentuated the bases of just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The king emphasized Jordan's firm principles and its view of a Middle East settlement. The Arab-Israeli conflict needs no new peace initiative after the entire world, except Israel, has agreed on how to settle this conflict—namely, the convening of an international peace conference attended by all parties to the conflict with participation of the Security Council's five permanent members under the umbrella of the United Nations and upon its invitation.

The world saw in the fact that the PLO accepted the requirements of peace, adhered to them, and worked for their achievement a positive stand that deserved support and recognition. What remains is for Israel to comply with the peace call; accept the international conditions for peace; and abandon its intransigence, holding hostage peace and the rights of the parties to the conflict, and denial of international legitimacy.

If Israel is trying to escape from its political impasse, brought about by the internationally supported Palestinian peace onslaught, it will succeed neither through launching new unjustified and baseless initiatives nor through continuing of its iron-fist policy, which has resulted only in growing, valiant resistance against the bloody occupation.

As it denounces and condemns the terrorist Israeli practices, the world knows very well that the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories reflects the determination of this people to regain their national rights and maintain their identity, dignity, and freedom on their national soil.

As Israel continues its intransegence through holding peace opportunities hostage, depending in this on foreign support and a local iron-fist policy, it helps prolong the region's crisis and subject it to explosion. It also helps escalate terrorism, practiced either by itself or by some parties as a result of its intransigent policy. Thus, Israel lifts the siege of peace by demolishing it.

The state terrorism that Israel practices against defenseless Palestinian civilians must end. It must be stopped by world support and through achieving peace, to which the PLO, Jordan, and the Arabs are committed.

Jordan sees in the European role in pushing forward the peace process a positive and effective role, and is, therefore, committed to close cooperation with this role.

Undoubtedly, the commitment of Jordan, under King Husayn, to the support and enhancement of the peace process is the main factor for the high appriciation for and evaluation or his majesty by the European peoples, as Mr Plumb has said. This reflects the extent of his majesty's honesty, honor, firmness, rationalism, courage, farsightedness, and wisdom.

In light of the European call for Jordanian participation in an international parliamentary conference to comprise the 23 European countries, the 2 superpowers, the region's states, and the PNC to discuss the Middle East issue and pave the way for the convening of the international peace conference, the journey toward peace is moving in the right direction, which Israel cannot continue to block.

Al-Huss Comments on Arab League Position

NC1301125489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss expressed hope that the Arab initiative embarked upon at the Arab League meetings will be crowned with success.

Asked about the Arab move in the wake of the Tunis resolutions, Dr al-Huss said: We will place all of our capabilities at the disposal of the Arab committee, for which we will do our utmost to facilitate its task. We hope that this committee will produce positive results to help us ride out the ordeal by means of a solution capable of preserving Lebanon's unity and restoring the dignity of the Lebanese people.

Prime Minister al-Huss continued: We reiterate our thanks to the Arab brothers for their concern over our issue. We hope that the new Arab move will be commensurate with the size of Lebanon's tragedy.

'Awn Cabinet Welcomes Arab League Move

NC1301154589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Statement by Presidency Director General Joseph Juraysati following the 13 January cabinet meeting in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Michel 'Awn, in his capacity as foreign minister, has briefed the cabinet on the exchanges and moves made by some Arab brothers prior to the Arab foreign ministers meeting. As a result, it was decided to instruct Lebanon's permanent delegate to the Arab League to attend the conference as an observer.

The cabinet then discussed the decisions of the Tunis conference, particularly the formation of a committee charged with holding direct exchanges with all Lebanese factions in order to find a solution to the crisis and exercise good offices to help Lebanon achieve national reconciliation. In this respect, the cabinet welcomed any fraternal initiative. It expressed the government's readiness for full and serious cooperation with any move to help Lebanon, within the framework of the principles outlined in the cabinet memorandum sent to the Arab foreign ministers on the eve of their meeting. This memorandum clearly explained the steps that could lead to Lebanon's liberation and the restoration of sovereignty over its entire territory, so that free national reconciliation may be reached.

The cabinet voiced the hope that the committee would examine the situation in order to see for itself the partition imposed on the Lebanese people, as well as the pressures they are under that prevent them from holding a dialogue and reaching understanding and reconciliation. The cabinet expressed thanks for the clear-cut positions adopted by some of the brothers attending the conference and the sincere efforts undertaken by some of the others in support of Lebanon's position and in a bid to reach unanimity in tackling the Lebanese crisis, as part of Arab solidarity and common Arab responsibility. The cabinet also discussed items on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions.

'Awn, Al-Huss, Al-Husayni Invited to League Talks

NC1401174189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The Arab ministerial committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers conference held in Tunis on Thursday has extended an invitation to Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni, acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and General Michel 'Awn. The committee expressed a desire to meet with them or their representatives from 30 January to 1 February at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

Dr Al-Huss stated that he received a cable from the Arab League General Secretariat expressing the 7-member ministerial committee's desire to meet with him or anyone he authorizes at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis from 30 January to 1 February.

Reportage on Car Bomb Explosion in Al-Ruways Area

Bomb Disrupts Hizballah March

NC1301141189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] There was an explosion near the Bank of France in the Al-Ruways area of Beirut's southern suburb. The explosion occurred in the street branching off the Harat Hurak area. According to information, the explosion was caused by a booby-trapped 280 Mercedes. It occurred during a march organized by Hizballah to protest the fighting between the party and the Amal Movement in the South. Ambulances and fire brigades rushed to the area. Sources in the area have said that 13 persons were either killed or wounded.

Reports on Casualties

NC1301143789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] A violent explosion rocked Beirut's southern suburb at approximately 1507 this afternoon. It later transpired that the blast had resulted from the detonation of a booby-trapped Mercedes parked in the Al-Ruways area. While preliminary security reports spoke of 6 dead and 12 wounded, including 2 leading Hizballah spiritual figures, sources close to the Internal Security Forces in the suburb told us that as a result of the explosion a number of people were wounded and a security cordon was thrown around the site of the blast. The explosion caused great damage to nearby shops and buildings and to at least 15 vehicles.

REUTER said the explosion left a score of people wounded, noting that a driver working for the agency, Hasan Sayyar, was among them. AFP said the blast occurred a few minutes after a Hizballah demonstration had passed. The agency correspondent says at least 1 person was killed and 15 others wounded in the explosion, which took place only 30 meters from a Syrian roadblock between the areas of Bi'r al-'Abd and Al-Ruways. The explosion caused panic among the 2,000 demonstrators. Hizballah had organized the march in response to a call for a strike by the Amal Movement.

Amal Denounces Bombing

NC1301155689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpts] A car bomb exploded in the Al-Ruways area in the southern suburb at 1505 this afternoon. According to security sources, the explosion of a Mercedes 500 caused one person to be killed and 12 to be wounded, including a woman. The blast damaged 15 cars parked in the area of the explosion. [passage omitted]

The Central Information Bureau of the Amal Movement has issued the following statement: The Amal Movement—leadership, cadres, and rank and file—announces its denunciation of the criminal and terrorist explosion which was targeted against our people in the Al-Ruways area today. This criminal action is the work of terrorists and criminals in the intelligence services who work to inflame sedition. The Amal Movement condemns this act and those behind it.

Hizballah Blames Birri

NC1301175789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Today's car bomb exploded at the tail end of a huge procession organized by Hizballah. Hizballah sources said that 15 people were either killed or wounded by the blast. [passage omitted]

In an accusation made over the Voice of Light [Sawt al-Nur] radio, Hizballah said that Nabih Birri is behind the car bombing. A Hizballah official denied that any senior officials of the party had been injured in the explosion.

Hizballah attacked Birri ferociously, describing him as a criminal, an agent, and a man whose conscience is dead. Hizballah criticized the current leaders of Amal for their domineering attitudes and threatened to take revenge for the blood of the strugglers and the innocent which has been spilled.

7 Killed, 15 Injured

NC1301203089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Seven persons were killed and 15 others injured when a booby-trapped car exploded this afternoon in the Al-Ruways area of the southern suburb. The car contained 75 kg of TNT. The explosion occurred after a Hizballah demonstration in the area.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, a malfunction delayed the explosion. There was a defect in one of the wires of the detonator, which was placed about 1 km from the booby-trapped car.

Security Source on Bombing

NC1501102989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] A security source in Hizballah has been quoted as saying that the person who planted the explosive charge during the party's procession on Friday has been arrested. He comes from the Miqdad family and works for Syrian intelligence.

Hizballah's Fadlallah Denies Iranian Mediation

JN1701094089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jan 89 pp 1, 16

[Interview with Hizballah "spiritual guide" Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by unidentified AL-RA'Y correspondent in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] [AL-RA'Y] Some assert that the Iranian mediation carried out by Iranian envoy to Damascus 'Ali Mohammad Besharati to stop the fighting between Amal movement and Hizballah has failed. What is your response?

[Fadlallah] Actually, there has been no Iranian mediation in the real sense of the word. In fact, consultations took place between the Islamic leadership in Iran and the Syrian leadership on the best way to reach a solution to this dispute. Therefore, there has not been any separate Iranian initiative, because, according to our information, Iran works in coordination with Syria regarding all Lebanese issues, especially concerning this bloody conflict.

[AL-RA'Y] The leaders working to tackle the current fighting were awaiting the arrival in Beirut of the Iranian envoy, but were surprised by his return to Tehran. How do you explain that?

[Fadlallah] According to our information, this was not included in his program from the beginning. We knew this when he came to Damascus.

[AL-RA'Y] What do you expect the picture to be in the next stage?

[Fadlallah] We are working with all honest people to end this stage peacefully. I believe that the grave consequences which have domestic and regional repercussions cause everyone to act more seriously and responsibly to find a balanced solution to this issue.

[AL-RA'Y] Some say that what happened in the South is a preparation for certain security measures being adopted on regional and international levels. What do you think?

[Fadlallah] Naturally, any event of this size in the South, which is an open arena to the Palestine question or what is called the Middle East issue with all its dimensions, must be used by every party in the interest of its political programs. Therefore, all political possibilities benefiting from this situation are relevant.

[AL-RA'Y] Do you expect the current domestic mediations between Hizballah and the Amal Movement to produce positive results?

[Fadlallah] I believe that any successful mediations must be coordinated among all parties influencing the issue.

Shi'ite Leaders Discuss Amal, Hizballah Conflict

NC1401145589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah issued two statements today urging the combatant Shi'ite formations to end the series of bloody struggles. The two appeals were made after a booby-trapped car bomb expoded in the southern suburb yesterday.

Shams al-Din condemned the crime and urged the Amal Movement and Hizballah to respond positively to the ongoing efforts which are trying to heal the open wound in Iqlim al-Tuffah. For his part, Fadlallah called on all religious and political leaders to work swiftly and seriously to end the bloody struggle. He pointed out that there is a plan to wipe out the resistance in the south.

Meanwhile, Hizballah issued a statement today saying it possesses all the information concerning the booby-trapped car, describing the incident as a real crime. Hizballah went on to say it will reveal the facts later.

Urge End to Fighting

NC1401190589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Concerning the Amal-Hizballah conflict, there was political activity today in which Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, [deputy] chairman of the Islamic Higher Shi'ite Council, retracted his rejection on principle of the status of Hizballah's spiritual leader Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. A long meeting was held today between them, which was brought about by a number of Al-Biqa' scholars who are afraid that the conflict might spread to their areas. It was noted that Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan did not attend the meeting. Qabalan is known for his loyalty to the Amal Movement, in which he has the status of a spiritual authority.

Scholar Fadlallah announced that the meeting was an initiative to break barriers and create a new climate to serve as an outlet to relieve general tension. He pointed out that there is a so-called scheme to destroy the Islamic resistance in the South.

Shams al-Din urged Amal and Hizballah to positively heed the efforts designed to halt the fighting in Jba'.

According to press sources in West Beirut, Shaykh Shams al-Din will leave for Damascus soon in order to discuss the Amal-Hizballah conflict.

Qabalan Proposes Plan To End Shi'ite Fighting

NC1401074589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has proposed a three-point plan for solving the conflict in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The points are: One, withdrawing gunmen from Jba' and 'Ayn bu Siwar and restoring the situation in the area to what it was before the outbreak of the war; two, forming a neutral and trustworthy committee, acceptable to all, to ensure the arrival of supplies and ammunition to the resistance fighters in the area; and three, this committee then supervising the return of the residents to the area.

Mufti Qabalan conveyed this plan to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Amal Movement leader minister Nabih Birri, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Hizballah officials Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and 'Abbas al-Musawi. The AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY reported that Speaker al-Husayni welcomed the plan, while Shaykh Shams al-Din blessed it and described it as a good plan that deserves to be studied and pursued. Minister Birri accepted the plan and promised to provide all capabilities and guarantees to implement it. Scholar Fadlallah affirmed that he does not object to any solution leading to agreement, but he said he is not a party in the current conflict.

More on Plan

NC1401173189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan today received a delegation of 'ulema from Al-Biqa' in the presence of Iranian charge d'affairs in Lebanon Hoseyn (Miknam). After the meeting, Qabalan said: We have proposed a formula for a solution, and we hope it will receive political support from the two dear countries of Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran so that in cooperation with them we may be able to end the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. This fighting has no legitimate or legal justification and has caused displacement, devastation, and the burning of homes.

Qabalan also said: There is total agreement between the brothers in Syria and Iran on the need to stop this sedition.

Hizballah Calls for Cease-Fire, Talks With Amal

LD1501104289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Lebanese Hizballah have called for an immediate and unconditional cease-fire as a prelude for discussions with the Amal movement to put an end to differences between the two groups.

According to an IRNA report, following the announcement of the three-point plan by Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite mufti of Lebanon, designed to put an end to the bloody clashes in the southern Lebanon, a Hizballah official said: We agree with the need for any immediate and unconditional cease-fire that will lead to discussions about the fundamental solution to differences between Amal and Hizballah and return the situation in Southern Lebanon to the way it was before the early incidents. However, we do not regard minor solutions in one area as appropriate.

He added: The main difficulties between Hizballah and the Amal movement are not confined to ('Ayn-Wuswar) and (Jiba') villages, so by leaving them one can not end this crisis; because minor withdrawals from a number of villages will not solve the basic problem. On the contrary, this issue brings with it the danger of the resumption of clashes at any moment.

According to the report, Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan's plan includes the withdrawal of Hizballah forces from (Jiba') and ('Ayn-Wuswar), the return of the situation to that which prevailed before last week's clashes, the formation of an impartial committee to organize food and equipment delivery to the beseiged forces, and the return of the peoples of those villages to their homes.

Hizballah Issues Statement Castigating Birri

NC1501120089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Hizballah issued a statement yesterday urging the residents of Jabal 'Amil, the southern suburb, and Al-Biqa' to understand what Birri and who it termed the hypocrites want from them.

The statement said: Birri fought us, deposed our ulema, evicted our brothers, arrested our youths, returned the agents to our villages, and eliminated all the positions of the Islamic resistance, and his gunmen have become frontier guards for Israel's security. For 6 months his gunmen have been besieging the Hizballah axis in Jabal Safi and Al-Luwayzah, and he now says: We will fight them even if their eviction costs us 6,000 dead. The Hizballah statement asked: Where will Birri get 6,000 fighters? He wants to get these dead from among your sons, so he can burn them in his crazy wars. Birri fought in the camps in the past. He killed 2,000 men from Amal and the result was a reconciliation with 'Arafat.

The statement again addressed the residents of Jabal 'Amil, the suburb, and Al-Biqa', saying: Do not believe the false reports on massacres, because Birri wants to instigate and incite you so as to fuel his battle with the blood of your sons. He is the one who commited the massacres. The statement concluded: We agree to end the fighting and have no conditions, but let Birri keep his evil way from us.

Hizballah Spokesman on Birri's 'Fierce Onslaught'

NC1501120289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Hizballah has launched a fierce attack on the Amal Movement and its leader Nabih Birri, accusing the movement of creating the clashes in the suburb and the south with a view to liquidating the Islamic resistance. Ibrahim al-Amin, a senior member of Hizballah's Consultative Council and the party's media official, held a news conference at 1115 today. Among other things, he said that the problem, which is a result of the fierce onslaught by Birri's Amal Movement against Hizballah in Jabal 'Amil on 5 April 1988, has not yet found a political solution.

He noted that what is hampering the political efforts for a solution is Birri's pharaonic mentality, his insistence on eliminating the other party, and his constant attempt to leap over the facts and ignore all the objective and political realities and circumstances, which require a prudent person to deal with on a basis of understanding. Al-Amin pointed out that it is this mentality that prompted Birri to try to destroy Hizballah in the suburb on 6 May 1988 and embroiled him in all the internal wars he fought in West Beirut and in the camps. He continued: It is also this mentality which made him use all means of instigation, incitement, and mobilizing the people to fuel his frivolous battles with their sons and to feed these battles with the blood of their best young men.

Al-Amin went on: Proceeding from our conviction of the futility of any security settlement not based on a comprehensive political accord, we call for the following: One, the immediate declaration of a ceasefire; two, allowing the evacuation of casualties; three, the lifting of Amal's food siege on the Iqlim al-Tuffah areas; four, releasing the detainees; five, abandoning the idea of uprooting the Islamic resistance; and six, beginning a serious dialogue to remedy the situation on political and security levels.

He pointed out that, despite Birri's loss in the suburb and the Syrians' pledge not to allow any party to eliminate the other, the Amal Movement leader has always insisted on not discussing the issue of the south and on rejecting political means to deal with the problem. Birri has always insisted on dealing with the problem only from the military point of view, he added.

Amal Responds to Spokesman

NC1501181489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Responding to the news conference held by Hizballah official Ibrahim al-Amin today, the Amal Movement's Information Bureau has accused the Hizballah leaders of deviating from the consensus of the shi'ite ulema in Lebanon. The bureau said that the Hizballah group has sold itself to Satan for a handful of dollars, as a result of its hidden rancor against Imam al-Sadr, his course, and institutions.

Meanwhile, Amal Movement official Muhammad Baydun lashed out at Hizballah, saying that well over 700 fighters had entered Iqlim al-Tuffah via Jazzin with the help of Lahd's group [South Lebanese Army]. He accused the Hizballah fighters of trying to build military bases and bring about a situation similar to that which prevailed before 1982. Baydun went on to say that Hizballah's aim is to gain control of the South in order to establish bases and use them for international bargaining.

Baydun said that the movement expects Iran to dissolve Hizballah, because the latter is playing an Israeli intelligence game.

Birri on Arab Ministers' Stand, Hizballah 'Plot'

NC1301163189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Amal leader Nabih Birri has welcomed the fact that the Arab foreign ministers conference has given priority to reconciliation, changes, and reform of the system as a basis for a solution in Lebanon. He said that he expects a long struggle and a real victory for the proposals which the Amal movement made approximately 2 years ago. He declared that the nationalist and Islamic forces will cooperate and that they are ready to hold very serious discussions on anything that will result in a new formula and system in Lebanon.

Minister Birri accused Hizballah of reaching agreement with [South Lebanese Army Commander] Lahd and those behind him to bring in men and weapons to occupy the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. He said that their plan was to reach Al-Nabatiyah. Birri added that they are raising the slogan of reconciliation in order to carry out new crimes.

Minister Birri described the events in Iqlim al-Tuffah as a plot against the victories achieved by Imam Musa al-Sadr and by the Amal Movement, which is following in his footsteps. Birri was speaking at a news conference this afternoon. He discussed various topical issues.

Reportage on Continued Amal-Hizballah Clashes

Forces Clash in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1301160389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah have not stopped. It appears that the fighting is taking the form of attack and retreat in Jba'. The townships of Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, 'Ayn Qanba, and Kafr Fila have been exchanging artillery and heavy machinegun fire. A guarded calm, marked by tension at times, prevails in the other villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Four journalists miraculously escaped death today when they became the target of heavy sniper fire at the approach to Kafr Fila. The sniper fire came from one of Hizballah's positions in the Jba' heights. The four journalists are Muhammad al-Asad of the NNA [National News Agency], Nazih Naqusi of REUTER, Hasan Hanqir of VISNEWS, and 'Abd al-Mullah Khalid, a television photographer who was slightly wounded in the head and hands. He was treated at Hamud Hospital in Sidon.

More on Iqlim al-Tuffah Clashes

NC1401101289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Tension continues in Iqlim al-Tuffah amid exchanges of machinegun and rocket fire between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters on the Jba', 'Ayn bu Siwar, and Al-Luwayzah combat lines.

As part of the attempts to deal with the situation, it has been learned that Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, will leave for Damascus soon to discuss with Syrian officials developments in the south and results of the efforts to deal with the conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Hizballah Controls Supply Routes

NC1401180689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen are taking place along combat lines in Jba', 'Ayb bu Siwar, Kafr Fila, and Al-Luwayzah.The fighting between the two sides became violent in the morning, when medium- and heavy-caliber weapons were used. It has been reported that sniper fire reached as far as Kafr Hatta and Kafr Milki this afternoon.

According to reports, one person was killed and nine others wounded in the fighting from last night to this afternoon. Sources close to both sides confirmed that the fighting is continuing along combat lines that have become permanent since Hizballah fighters fortified their posts in part of Jba' town and in the hills of 'Ayn bu Siwar, Jba', and the vicinity. Hizballah fighters are now in a position to prevent the Amal Movement from setting up fixed positions in the region, now that Hizballah controls the supply routes between Kafr Fila and Jba'. It has been learned that the Amal Movement is now using alternate routes instead of the main road, which is within the Hizballah fighters' range of fire.

Sporadic Clashes Continue

NC1401201889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The intensity of clashes between Amal and Hizballah on the combat lines of Jba', Kafr Fila, 'Ayn bu Siwar, and Al-Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah has eased. Security sources say the situation is currently confined to sporadic clashes interspersed with artillery duels between the two sides. These sources say there is a large exodus from the villages of the region, particularly from Jba', only a few of whose inhabitants remain.

Clashes Break Out in Al-Biqa'

NC1401203689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The inter-Shi'ite conflict spread to western Al-Biqa' today. Syrian forces intervened in a clash between Amal and Hizballah in Suhmur and contained the situation. AFP reported that 50 Syrian troops and 10 intelligence service personnel entered the township shortly after midday and established an armed checkpoint there.

Amal Destroys Hizballah Ammunition

NC1501072789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] According to a report received a short while ago, a series of explosions followed by bursts of machinegun fire were heard in the Al-Shiyah area of Beirut at about 0750 today. An Amal Movement security source in the area explained that an agreement was reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah yesterday to allow food supplies to be brought to the Hizballah office in the Al-Hajjaj area. At 0600 today, Amal Movement fighters were surprised to see two Hizballah trucks loaded with ammunition trying to enter the area, and they fired at them. The source explained that the explosions that are being heard are the contents of the two vehicles blowing up.

Clashes Intensify in Beirut Suburbs

NC1501073289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Explosions have been heard in Beirut's suburbs since 0810 today. According to initial reports received by our radio, clashes involving the use of shellfire and automatic weapons are taking place in Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah between Amal and Hizballah. These clashes intensified a few minutes ago.

'Calm Prevails' in Al-Shiyah

NC1501082489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the Al-Shiyah area of Beirut following clashes which took pace at 0750 today between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters because of an incident on Al-Hajjaj Street. Rockets and automatic weapons were used in the clashes. The security committee intervened and dealt with the incident.

Security reports have not mentioned any significant development in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, where there is extreme caution following yesterday's clashes.

'Fierce' Fighting in Southern Suburb

NC1501174589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Fierce clashes broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Al-Musharrafiyah and Bi'r al-'Abd in the southern suburb at 1845 today. Artillery and rockets are being used in the fighting. It should be recalled that these clashes are the first of their kind since the Syrian forces established a buffer zone in the area.

2 Killed, 5 Wounded in Clashes

NC1601155089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The ongoing conflict between Amal and Hizballah was discussed today during a meeting attended by a Hizballah delegation; Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization; Sidon Mufti Muhammad Salim Jalal al-Din; and Sidon Ja'farite Mufti Muhammad Hasan al-Amin. Speaking for Hizballah, Shaykh Na'im Qasim said: We support any solution which safeguards the security of the Islamic resistance.

In the meantime, tension is still high in the southern suburb of Beirut, following clashes this morning [Between Amal and Hizballah] which left two dead and five wounded. Intermittent clashes are now taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Hizballah Groups Clash in Beirut Suburb

NC1701103689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Groups belonging to Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli [Hizballah officials] clashed in Hayy Madi in the southern suburb at 1130 today. According to available information, the clashes were motivated by differences over the ongoing Amal-Hizballah struggle. [passage omitted]

11, 12 Jan Israeli Raids Said 'Unsuccessful'

NC1401181889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC], the group led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], issued a statement in Beirut today in which it described the Israeli air raids this week against one of its bases in Lebanon as completely unsuccessful. According to a casualty count supplied by a source close to the FRC, however, three FRC fighters were either killed or injured in the two Israeli raids against an FRC base in Bqusta, which took place about 12 hours apart on 11 and 12 January.

Reportage on Visit of Indian House Speaker

Arrives 11 Jan

JN1101142089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] An Indian parliamentary delegation led by Dr Balram Jakhar, speaker of India's House of the People, arrived in Damascus at noon today on a 5-day visit to Syria.

Dr Balram Jakhar was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah. Also on hand to receive him were Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Committee, and the Indian ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Jakhar said: We arrived in Damascus as friends of the Syrian Arab Republic. As representatives of the two houses, we meet from time to time to hold talks, coordinate with each other, and improve relations, including parliamentary and other relations. He added that the delegation will discuss international issues and problems in order to enhance world peace.

Holds Round of Talks

JN1201142489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 123 Jan 89

[Text] A round of talks was held this morning between a People's Assembly delegation under its speaker, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, and an Indian Parliament delegation under its speaker, Dr Balram Jakhar. They reviewed the close historical relations between the two friendly countries, stressing their desire to expand them further in all spheres and coordinate moves on issues of common interest.

Both sides expressed appreciation for the other's support for its positions on causes of liberation, independence, and building.

The Indian parliamentary delegation emphasized its country's firm support for just Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian people's cause and their struggle for self-determination and statehood. It noted India's support for convening an effective UN-sponosred international Middle East peace conference.

The Syrian People's Assembly delegation stressed Syria's support for the Indian people's struggle against the aggressive conspiracies and schemes and imperialism designed to impede their march toward progress and construction.

Meets With Al-Ahmar, Al-Zu'bi

JN1401140889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received the Indian paliamentary delegation led by Parliament Speaker Dr Balram Jakhar today. The meeting was attended by Comrade Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Foreign and Arab Relations Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Indian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks centered on the advanced relations between Syria and India in general and party relations in particular, and on the two countries' joint action within the Nonaligned Movement and the Afro-Asian solidarity movement. The talks also dealt with the most prominent issues in the world, especially those related to the Arab region. [passage omitted]

Earlier this morning, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr Balram Jakhar and his delegation. Shakir Is'id and the Indian ambassador attended. The prime minister emphasized the deep relations between the two countries and peoples. He gave a detailed review of the great developments that Syria has witnessed under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in various economic, social, and cultural domains. [passage omitted]

For his part, Dr Balram Jakhar expressed his happiness over visiting Syria, affirming the profound friendship and relations binding the two countries and peoples and the need to strengthen them further for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Balram Jakhar conveyed to Al-Zu'bi greetings and good wishes from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He presented an expanded review of the various economic and social developments that Indian has witnessed recently, affirming the need to expand and develop the existing ties and cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic, technical, and scientific fields, with special emphasis on expanding cooperation and trade between the two sides. Dr Balram Jakhar valued the great achievements in Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Zu'bi asked Dr Balram Jakhar to convey his greetings and good wishes to Rajiv Gandhi and the Indian Government.

Attends Dinner Banquet

JN1501074089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah has affirmed that Syria and India are proceeding ahead on the road of joint struggle against the hostile challenges posed by imperialism and Zionism.

This came in a speech delivered by Qaddurah during a dinner banquet hosted yesterday evening by Dr Balram Jakhar, speaker of the Indian House of the People, in honor of Qaddurah.

In a speech delivered during the dinner banquet, Dr Balram Jakhar asserted the depth and strength of bilateral relations and stressed the need to work continuously to enhance them. Dr Balram Jakhar referred to the talks and meetings he had held at the People's Assembly and with senior Party and state officials. He affirmed that the views were identical on the issues discussed. He praised the developed tourist sites that he and his delegation saw during their visit.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1501142689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1030 today received the Indian parliamentary delegation headed by Balram Jakhar, speaker of the Indian House of the People. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly.

Balram Jakhar conveyed the greetings of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to President al-Asad. The president accepted them and conveyed his greetings and wishes to President Gandhi and the friendly Indian people.

Departs 15 Jan

JN1501214089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Balram Jakhar, speaker of the Indian House of the People, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus today following a visit of several days to Syria. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis 13 Jan

JN1301214489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tunis this evening after participating in the proceedings of the international conference on chemical weapons in Paris and in Arab foreign ministerial meetings in Tunis to discuss the American aggression against Libya and Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Solidarity With Libya

JN1201081489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has a commentary on the Arab League Council's meeting today to discuss the U.S. aggression against Libya. The paper explains that Arabs today face new facts. These facts are dictated by the tense atmosphere imposed on Libya by the aggressive U.S. policy.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that through the Arab League Council Arabs are urged not only to affirm solidarity with Libya but also to emphasize commitment to the collective Arab defense pact. This is because Arab solidarity in such a situation is put to the test of the Arab nation's militant experience. Arab solidarity is the living embodiment of the joint Arab will to safeguard the Arab nation's dignity and maintain its ability to thwart the dangers posed to it.

Views Veto on U.S. 'Aggression'

JN1301083689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH analyzes dimensions of the tripartite veto through which the United States, France, and Britain have prevented the Security Council from condemning the U.S. aggression against Libya. The paper says: This has indicators which go beyond obstructing the international community's willpower or canceling its charters and resolutions. This veto announces the beginning of an aggressive U.S. scheme not only against Libya but also against the Arab steadfast forces in order to intimidate Arabs and prevent them from confronting the racist Zionist invasion as a prelude to imposing the policy of a fait accompli on Arabs exactly the way Israel wishes.

AL-THAWRAH explains that the U.S. aggression against Libya, the arbitrary use of veto, and the U.S. harmony with European parties to escalate the media campaign against Libya are only a prelude to a wider aggression which goes beyond provocations or the downing of two aircraft. This harmony and the intensive U.S. military moves in the Mediterranean explain the fact that there is a planned U.S. aggression. Had such an intention not been present, U.S. military preparations would not have been so intensive.

Afghanistan

Diplomats Say Soviet Withdrawal To End This Month

BK1701114889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 17 (AFP)—Soviet troops are expected to have completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of this month, two weeks ahead of the deadline set in the Geneva accords, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

"Despite lack of any official announcement, the withdrawal of Soviet troops continues," a diplomat said. "It could be completed by the end of the month."

Under the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords, the Soviet Union is to have completed its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan by February 15.

The Western diplomats said that the Soviet Union was removing troops from Afghanistan both by air and by land. "There has been heavy air activity with aircraft bringing in ammunition and taking troops out," a diplomat said.

The diplomats said some of the outer perimeter defence positions around Kabul had been taken over from Soviet soldiers by newly-created elite Afghan "Special Guard Units." But they added that the Soviets may want to maintain a military presence in Kabul until February 15 "for political reasons."

Another diplomatic source said that Soviet advisers would be withdrawn from Afghanistan except those attached to the Ministries of Defence, State Security and Interior.

Advisers will also be left with the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the ruling communist Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), the source said. Analysts said they believed that this was to prevent political infighting after the Soviet withdrawal.

In the north, Soviet armour had been digging into new positions alongside the strategic Salang highway, presumably to secure the route for the final withdrawal, the Western diplomats here said.

They said the Soviet 40th Army Headquarters will soon move from Kabul to Mazar-e Sharif in the north and control the rest of the withdrawal from there.

Quoting colleagues in Kabul, the diplomats said they believed that the Soviet pullout from the western Shindand Base and Herat along the Iranian border had not yet started.

They said there had been frequent airlifts from Kabul every day this week as well as last week. Between January 9 and January 14, as many as 40 Il-76 transport flights arrived and left Kabul, double the usual rate.

They said diplomats and others have seen fully-equipped Soviet troops boarding the planes heading towards the north, while Afghan troops mostly unloaded ammunition from the aircraft.

The Soviet flag-carrier Aeroflot is now using Il-76 instead of Tu-154 airliners for its Kabul runs, they said. The advantage is that the Il-76 has greater lift capacity and is able to drop flares to distract anti-aircraft missiles.

At least two large convoys brought in fuel and food supplies for Kabul last week, the diplomats said, although the quantity was insufficient to alleviate the food and fuel shortages afflicting the capital.

Afghan resistance, or mujahidin, guerrillas have sealed the Kabul-Jalalabad and Jalalabad-Towr Kham roads in their bid to continue to put economic pressure on the capital.

Further on Visit of Soviet Foreign Minister

Met by Leaders, Vorontsov

LD1301155289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, this morning arrived in Kabul on a working visit.

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil; Defense Minister Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay; Interior Minister Maj Gen Muhammad Aslam Watanjar; Minister of State Security Lt Gen Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi; and Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and ambassador and plenipotentiary representative in the Republic of Afghanistan, welcomed the Soviet foreign minister at Kabul International Airport.

Holds Talks With Najibullah

LD1401175189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The Presidency Press Office reports that Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, met this morning in his office with His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister of the Soviet Union, who came to Kabul yesterday for a working visit. During this meeting, which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, the sides comprehensively and seriously assessed the present situation and the prospects for developing the situation in Afghanistan and in its vicinity.

Both sides pointed out that finally, all the objective possibilities for guiding the process under way in Afghanistan to a peaceful settlement, ending the bloodshed, and bringing peace and calm to the Afghan land now exist.

During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the great importance of Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals at the UN General Assembly, which have evoked positive responses worldwide. The Soviet Union fully supports the important move by the Republic of Afghanistan in announcing a unilateral cease-fire starting on 1 January 1989. However, this initiative has not been supported by the armed extremist opposition who still want to impose armed struggle on the Afghan people and thus prevent the establishment of peace in the country.

The Soviet side confirmed its intention to continue playing an intermediary role in opening a general dialogue in Afghanistan in which the Afghans themselves would choose ways to resolve their problems and ensure for Afghanistan the status of an independent, neutral, and demilitarized state.

Esteemed Najibullah, the president, said that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan sincerely desires that as soon as possible a quick solution be found to end the protracted conflict. Esteemed Najibullah added that at the same time, we are ready for unfavorable developments of events and ready to rebuff pressures and armed attacks.

The Soviet side once again confirmed its full support for the policies of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and said that the Soviet Union would contuinue extending the Republic of Afghanistan all-round assistance under the treaties and agreements concluded by the two countries.

During this meeting issues regarding the delivery of foodstuffs and other essential goods were discussed. Both sides agreed on the special and vital importance the USSR has in supplying foodstuffs, fuel, and other humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. The Soviet side stressed once again its intention to abide strictly by its committments to the Republic of Afghanistan.

His Excellency Mr Shevardnadze is continuing to hold talks in Kabul.

Meeting Termed 'Sincere'

LD1501182289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] In continuation of his previous meetings, today Esteemed Najibullah, the Afghan president, met with His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, the USSR minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, which was held in a completely sincere atmosphere and unity of opinion, various topics of interests were discussed.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD1601072689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 15, BAKHTAR—Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan met with Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, who is currently in Kabul on a working visit, on January 14.

There was an interested conversation on matters concerning the situation in Afghanistan and around the country which has now entered a particularly responsible period.

The sides pointed out that the constructive stand of the president and Government of Afghanistan furnished the necessary basis for a further quest for ways to achieve a political settlement. The example of the activities of the present Afghan Government, in which representatives of various parties and non-party people successfully cooperate, shows that Afghans can conduct a broader, nationwide dialogue on all issues concerning the future of their country.

There was a substantive discussion of matters concerning Soviet-Afghan economic cooperation. The Soviet side emphasized a firm intention to abide by the intergovernmental and other agreements concluded in this field and to meet its commitments particularly those concerning the rendering of assistance to the Afghan population in the form of delivery of food, petroleum products and other prime necessities.

The Afghan side expressed gratitude to the Soviet side for assistance in overcoming the difficulties being encountered by the people of Afghanistan now.

Muhammad Hasan Sharq and Eduard Shevardnadze exchanged views on how to utilize in the best way the opportunities opening up in connection with the long-term programme signed by the two countries for economic, technical and trade cooperation for the period ending in the year 2000.

On the same day, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met with Eduard Shevardnadze. It was pointed out that initiatives proposed by President Najibullah and Mikhail Gorbachev for a peaceful resolution of the Afghan situation attracted the attention of the international community. The implementation of the initiatives would make it possible firmly to embark upon the road leading to termination of the bloodshed on Afghan soil in the nearest future.

'Abdul Wakil expressed gratitude to the Soviet side for efforts being made by it to render assistance in arranging contacts with Afghans who adhere to various political views and convictions. It was emphasized that, despite everything, there were possibilities for Afghans finally to come to terms among themselves.

The sides emphasized once again that it was essential most fully to utilize the favourable opportunities which had arisen for an Afghan settlement as a result of the signing of the Geneva agreements and of the unanimous passage of the resolution on Afghanistan by the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Individual specific aspects of the situation in Afghanistan were discussed during the meeting of Afghan Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, State Security Minister Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, and Interior Minister Muhammad Aslam Watanjar with the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Eduard Shevardnadze also had meetings with Ulumi, governor of Qandahar, Fazl Haq Haleqyar, governor of Herat Province, and other state and political figures of Afghanistan.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1501172689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, left Kabul this afternoon for the Soviet Union after ending his 2-day working visit and carrying out meetings with Esteemed Najibullah the president of Afghanistan, Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, and other high-ranking Afghan authorities.

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil; Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense; Major General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, the minister of internal affairs; Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security; and His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union and USSR ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to the Republic of Afghanistan, saw Eduard Shevardnadze off at Kabul international airport.

Eduard Shevardnadze gave an interview to a BAKHTAR correspondent before leaving for Moscow, which will be broadcast tonight at 2100.

Najibullah Meets With Military Leaders

LD1501201689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] This afternoon Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, at Delkosha Palace—the presidential palace—met with members of the leadership, commanders, generals, and political heads of the units and companies of the Armed Forces. BAKHTAR's military section reports that Esteemed Najibullah, accompanied by Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, the defense minister; Major General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of internal affairs; and Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, arrived in the hall of Delkosha Palace at 1600 this afternoon and was warmly welcomed by the audience.

Major General 'Abdul Haq Ulumi, head of the Armed Forces section of the PDPA Central Committee, began by delivering a short speech and then requested Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, to speak on the present situation in the country.

Esteemed Najibullah then delivered a comprehensive and authoratative speech, pointing out the responsibility and duties of the commanders and political workers of the units and companies in defending the country, implementing the national reconciliation policy, and ensuring peace and security. He mentioned shortcomings and drew the attention of the officials of the units and companies to the enhancement of the combat capability of the units, protection of the living conditions of the personnel, and assistance to the people.

In conclusion, Major General 'Abdul Haq Ulumi, on behalf of the participants, pledged to Esteemed Najibullah all their efforts in fulfilling their duties for ensuring peace and security in the country. He said that he will not spare any self-sacrifice for the full implementation of the national reconciliation policy and in the defense of the homeland.

Armed Forces High Command Statement on Pakistan

LD1401175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Statement by the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear compatriots. On Monday, 20 Jadi 1367, corresponding to 9 January 1989, the Pakistani Armed Forces conducted an unprecedented ground and aerial armed violation of Afghan territory. On that day, two Pakistani helicopters violated Afghan airspace at 1040 and landed extremist group leaders and activists, foreign advisers, and senior Pakistani officers near the Ghaziabad farm in Mohmand-Darrah District, Nangarhar Province. On the same day, at 1030 a convoy of armored vehicles and motorized forces entered Afghan territory in support of the extremist armed groups by bringing supplies and people to the areas.

These operations were detected by Afghan military units and vigorous actions were taken in this regard. As a result, the two Pakistani helicopters and the convoy of armored vehicles were destroyed. This armed intrusion by Pakistani military forces is qualitatively different from previous interference and armed intrusions. This is the first time that Pakistani Armed Forces have intruded so far into Afghan territory. Not only has this clear and shameless violation trampled on the spirit and letter of the Geneva agreements, but it is also in full and clear contravention of all authoritative norms of interstate relations.

This armed intrusion has led the Republic of Afghanistan to lodge a severe protest with Pakistan's leaders through its charge d'affaires in Kabul. The issue has also been taken up with the UN secretary general through the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan can by no means remain indifferent to these hostile and interfering acts. It believes it has a legitimate right to take the appropriate actions and measures to defend the territorial integrity, political independence, and national sovereignty of the country. The Republic of Afghanistan strongly demands that Pakistani authorities refrain from actions which contravene that country's pledges under the Geneva agreements; otherwise, the responsibility for the dangerous consequences of such adventurist and provocative actions will rest with them.

The High Command of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces is fully confident that all compatriots, regardless of their political positions on national and internal problems, will be prepared to stand in a strong and united trench in order to eliminate the foreign intrusion and defend the national interests and honor of their country and people.

Mujahidin Down MiG Aircraft; Fighting in Khowst

BK1301154189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say a fierce fighting broke out in Khowst and its surrounding areas in Paktia Province last week. After a fierce battle at Darvazahgey and (Terigara), the mujahidin captured 10 military posts and killed several Kabul troops.

According to another report, the mujahidin also shot down a Kabul regime MiG aircraft on 8 January in the Paghman Valley. They are also said to be strengthening positions around Gowshtah, Kameh, and (Segha) areas in the outskirts of the city of Jalalabad, areas already under their control.

Mujahidin Shoot Down 2 Planes, Damage 2 Others

BK1401153989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin destroyed the office of the Kabul administration's secret agency, KHAD, in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, killing eight officers. The mujahidin also attacked the military base in Shindand, damaging two fighter planes. They shot down a bomber aircraft near the city of Farah and downed another jet plane in Oruzgan Province.

3 Pakistani 'Advisers' Killed in Khowst

LD1401160289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst Major District recently inflicted crushing blows on those extremist, warmongering groups who have secretly crept back from Pakistan. The Armed Forces foiled their evil plans to make a last-ditch effort to disrupt peace and security in the vicinity of this district.

Colonel Muhammad Faruq, head of the Khowst forces political section, made the following statement to the BIA military section correspondent:

A number of warmongering extremists equipped with heavy and light weapons recently entered the country and concentrated in the (Kharjil) region. They opened fire with heavy weapons trying to disrupt the peace and security of the Khowst Major District inhabitants.

The Armed Forces units and companies stationed in Khowst Major District, with the support of the people, inflicted reciprocal and crushing blows on the extremists groups. As a result, the warmongering extremists lost 60 men, including three Pakistani advisers; a number of them were injured. Dozens of the enemy's weapons, including rocket launchers, recoilless guns and DShK's were destroyed, and several of their hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of the recent Armed Forces operation in the vicinity of (Shah Vali Dokan), dozens of the extremists were killed, and several of their weapons and ammunition depots were eliminated. The Armed Forces units and companies stationed in Khowst Major District have the all-round support of the local people. Together with the Armed Forces, the inhabitants are defending peace and security and crushing those extremists groups attempting to disrupt peace and security in Khowst Major District.

There are currently a number of armed extremist groups in parts of this district who are not taking part in the subversive actions; they want peace and security in the country.

The head of the Khowst forces political section said that there are sufficient essential goods in Khowst Major District. He also said that the people, with infallible determination, are taking part in the full implementation of the policy of national reconciliation; they resolutely want an end to the fratricidal war and bloodshed in the country.

Team of Pakistani Advisers Reportedly in Zabol

LD1401183589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistani Armed Forces personnel are intruding into Afghan territory along with armed groups of extremists and are taking part in subversive activities. BAKHTAR reports that recently a team of Pakistani and Arab advisers headed by a Pakistani colonel entered Zabol Province to encourage the extremists to continue the war and fratricide. They distributed a large amount of money for this very purpose among the armed groups. The team met opposition ringleaders at the (Mamozai) and (Mulla 'Ali Muhammad) bases and asked them to intensify their subversive activities, promising that they would help them. However, the ringleaders turned the request down.

Mujahidin Seize More Posts, Threaten Jalalabad

BK1501135589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1335 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 15 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels have captured three security posts in eastern Nangarhar Province and were preparing to attack Jalalabad a few kilometres (miles) away, resistance sources said Sunday.

The three Afghan military posts of Toki Baba, Dragai and Rozi Khan [placenames as received] in Kama District fell to guerrillas Saturday after three hours of fighting, the sources said, adding that rebels captured three tanks, 15 vehicles, 16 heavy machine guns and 300 AK-47 assault rifles from the posts. Casualty figures were not known, the sources said.

After capturing the posts the mujahidin advanced and took positions some eight kilometres (five miles) from Jalalabad, the provincial capital and a key garrison town on the road linking Kabul to the Towr Kham border checkpoint with Pakistan. The border post has been under mujahidin control since late last month.

The Afghan planes bombed several areas in Kama District Saturday and Sunday, causing heavy damages to residential houses and crops, the sources said, adding that it was not known how many people were killed in the bombings.

The rebels captured the Army Headquarters of Kama District on Monday, the sources said.

Mujahidin Leaders To Meet in Tehran for Talks

BK1301155089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 13 (AFP)—A delegation of Pakistan-based Afghan resistance leaders left here for Tehran Friday [13 January] for further talks with Iranian-based rebel groups in a bid to find a solution to the Afghan problem.

The delegation led by the current chairman of the seven-party resistance alliance based here, Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, will begin talks Sunday to discuss the deadlock in negotiations with the Soviet Union, resistance sources said.

A second round of direct talks between the mujahidin rebels and the Soviet Union in Islamabad last week ended in stalemate with the mujahidin delegates saying they would hold no further talks with Moscow. [passage omitted]

A Pakistani Foreign Office official was reported Wednesday to have said that the Pakistani Government would try to "restart" the talks. [passage omitted]

India

SRV's Nguyen Van Linh To Visit 23-29 Jan

BK1601120889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 16 (AFP)—Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Van Linh will arrive here later this month for talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi expected to be dominated by efforts to settle the Cambodian conflict.

Secretary General Mr. Linh will hold the first of three rounds of talks with Mr. Gandhi on January 23 to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including the Cambodian conflict, an Indian Government press release said.

Mr. Linh and Mr. Gandhi will discuss efforts to install a four-party transitional coalition government in Phnom Penh, it said.

India, a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement and one of Vietnam's closest Asian allies, has played a behind-the-scenes role in current talks aimed at ending the 10-year-old Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia and forming a transition government, analysts here said.

The last two Linh-Gandhi meetings will be held on January 24 and 25 aboard an Indian Air Force plane which will fly the two leaders to Bombay for a cultural extravaganza and then back to the capital, the press statement said.

Mr. Linh, who will be the guest of honour at India's Republic Day military parade on January 26, will also have talks with senior members of Mr. Gandhi's Cabinet, including External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister S.B. Chavan.

He will return to Hanoi on January 29.

India recognizes the Phnom Penh government and in the past has backed Hanoi's stand on Cambodia. Last April, Mr. Gandhi stopped over in Ho Chi Minh City on his return home from a visit to Japan.

But earlier this month the Indian Government rescheduled some 70 million dollars in credit to Hanoi, and on Tuesday a joint commission will meet here for talks on future economic assistance to Vietnam, currently suffering a trade embargo by countries protesting the Cambodia occupation.

A U.N.-recognized Cambodian resistance coalition made up of followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, former Prime Minister Son Sann and the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge has been fighting the Phnom Penh government since Hanoi troops toppled the Khmer Rouge in 1979.

Vietnam two weeks ago said it would withdraw its remaining troops from Cambodia by September in the event of a political settlement.

Observers here noted that Mr. Linh's visit follows a trip to Paris by India's Minister of State for External Affairs Kanwar Natwar Singh, who returned here Sunday after talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the French capital.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen visited India in November last year.

'No Evidence' of Pakistan Nuclear Test in PRC

BK1301125089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The government has said that there is no evidence to substantiate press reports that a nuclear test by Pakistan was taking place in China at the time mentioned in the reports. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government had seen the press reports quoting Western intelligence sources that China is arranging a nuclear test for Pakistan at its (Lot Nor) testing ground. Responding to queries by newsmen, the spokesman said India is aware that China is providing material in the nuclear field to Pakistan.

Violence Erupts in Jammu, Kashmir After Hangings

Shoot-at-Sight Orders Issued

BK1301125589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Indefinite curfew has been imposed in Jammu city following clashes between two groups. The state government has issued shoot-at-sight orders. The clashes occurred after a section of the people protested against slogans raised by another section.

3 Hindus 'Burnt Alive'

BK1301122889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Jammu, India, Jan 13 (AFP)—At least three Hindus were burnt alive and nearly 100 people were injured as Hindus and Sikhs fought pitched battles in the northern Indian city of Jammu on Friday [13 January], eye-witnesses said.

The authorities, faced with one of the worst ever orgies of violence in the city, immediately imposed an indefinite curfew and called out the Army to crush the mob fury in which at least 85 vehicles were set ablaze.

Angry Sikhs caught hold of the three Hindus, said to be members of the fundamentalist Shiv Sena group, and set them on fire after coming under a barrage of missiles while passing through a crowded street, witnesses said.

The violence erupted during a religious procession by some 7,000 Sikhs to mark the anniversary of the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, they said.

Several young Sikhs began shouting slogans hailing two Sikhs hanged last Friday, provoking a stone attack by Shiv Sena activists, they said.

Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh were executed in New Delhi's Tihar Prison for assassinating Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984. The hangings were widely condemned by the Sikh community.

Sword-wielding Sikhs then took on both Hindus and policemen, who fired tear gas and made repeated cane charges but failed to bring the situation under control, witnesses said.

But the police action forced the majority of the participants in the procession to flee in all directions in search of shelter, witnesses said. Nineteen of those wounded were believed to be in a serious condition.

The two communities fought running battles across Hindu-dominated Jammu city, attacking one another with stones and setting fire to shops and vehicles parked along various roads, police and people fleeing from the area said.

Scores of cars, pick-up vans and buses went up in smoke before the authorities announced the indefinite curfew.

"The situation continues to be out of control," a police officer said. [passage omitted]

Army Deployed; Situation 'Tense'

BK1301160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Indefinite curfew has been imposed and shoot-at-sight orders issued in Jammu following widespread violence and arson in different parts of the city. The Army has been deployed in vulnerable areas.

An official spokesman told AIR correspondent that the trouble started when provocative slogans were raised and placards displayed during a religious procession, resulting in clashes between two communities. Police had to resort to firing at various places to disperse violent crowds. The spokesman said that a number of private and government vehicles were set ablaze and shops looted.

Our correspondent reports that the situation continues to be tense.

Chief Minister Urges Restraint

BK1401030689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] In Jammu, six persons were killed and many others injured in clashes between two groups of people yesterday. A number of vehicles and shops were set ablaze by miscreants in different parts of the city. Indefinite curfew continues since yesterday afternoon. Army and police are patrolling the disturbed areas.

The trouble started when provocative slogans were raised by some miscreants during a religious procession and members of another group objected resulting in clashes. The senior superintendent of police told our Jammu correspondent this morning that the situation is under control and no untoward incident has been reported since last night.

The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has appealed to the people to exercise restraint and not believe in rumors. In a broadcast over Radio Kashmir, Jammu, he said the government would deal firmly with the miscreants trying to foment communal tension. The general secretary of the state BJP, Mr Chamanlal Gupta, has also urged the people to maintain peace. He has demanded a high-level enquiry into yesterday's incidents.

Judicial Inquiry Ordered

BK1401091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] A judicial inquiry has been ordered into the causes leading to widespread violence in Jammu city yesterday. Talking to newsmen in Jammu today, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said the inquiry will be conducted by a retired judge of the high court. The chief minister warned that his government will deal firmly with communal and antinational elements. The governor, Mr Jag Mohan, and the chief minister visited the injured in hospital today. Talking to our correspondent, the state health minister, Mr (Chib), said 92 persons were injured in yesterday's incident. Twenty-nine of them have been discharged.

Our correspondent, who visited various areas in curfew-bound Jammu city, said the situation is under control. No untoward incident has been reported since last night. Curfew was imposed in Udhampur today, following burning of some shops in the town this morning. The Army has been called in for help.

Leaders of various political parties in Jammu have condemned the incident and urged the government to deal firmly with those responsible for the trouble. The state Congress-I president, Mr Ghulam Rasool Kar, the Janata Dal leader, Mr Dhanraj Bargotra, and the BJP general secretary, Mr Chamanlal Gupta, have appealed to the people to maintain peace and to help the administration in dealing with the situation. They have demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident.

Situation 'Under Control'

BK1601124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The curfew relaxation period in Talab Tillu area of Jammu and Udhampur town passed off peacefully today with people buying essential commodities after 4 days of the curfew in the two cities.

Briefing newsmen in Jammu this evening, the divisional commissioner, Mr N.R. Gupta, said the situation throughout the Jammu Division is well under control. He said the situation is gradually improving and the Army and police are keeping a strict vigil. He said BSF [Border Security Force] posts have been set up at vulnerable places. The divisional commissioner said with the arrest of eight more persons today, the total number of arrests have gone up to 43. Police has also recovered some stolen goods looted during Friday's disturbances. He said the Civil Secretariat functioned normally in Jammu today.

The chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today visited the Akhnur area to assess the situation. The health minister, Mr Rajendra Singh Chib, visited Ranbirsingh Pura town in some nearby areas.

Leaders of various political parties and social organizations are also touring the area to defuse the tension.

Border Security Forces Seize Heroin, Gold, Arms

BK1501090289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, the Border Security Force [BSF] has seized 420 kilograms of heroin from Ferozepore District during the last 3 days. The contraband is valued at 400 crore rupees in the international market.

The inspector general of the BSF told the [words indistinct] at 345 gold biscuits valued at 1 crore 28 lakh rupees have been seized from Amritsar District. He said the BSF also recovered some arms and ammunition from Nurwala in the Khem Karan sector on Friday night.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1301202089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1540 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, at Tehran University on 13 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I will speak briefly on several matters in this sermon. The first point concerns the blessed, auspicious, meaningful, and profound message of the revolution's leader, his eminence the imam, to Mr Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union.

I feel that our people and also the people of the world need a brief explanation about the aims of that message. The feeling exists that in the world at large, too, there is a certain lack of understanding, particularly because that was the first message from the imam—an official message—in which he wrote a letter in his own gracious writing and selected and sent a delegation. He also openly announced his message. That was the first such measure undertaken by the imam. Many questions arise in the world, and our people may also be eager to learn more.

First, the make-up of the delegation was an interesting one. The imam sent a high-ranking cleric, along with a trusted, capable diplomat, as well as a lady, a combatant and experienced woman. Well, that says a lot about the leader of the revolution's thinking.

Why such a letter was written at this point in time requires some explanation. The framework of the matter is that the imam, in his capacity as a leader who is the bearer of the message of Islam, of the Koran, and of the successorship of the immaculate [imams] and the rule of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih], considers himself responsible for Islamic guidance [ershad] and for explaining divine teachings; that responsibility is truly his.

He has started a revolution, a cultural revolution; our revolution, even more than being a political revolution, is a cultural revolution, a religious revolution. And its main mission is to implement divine commandments. When he encounters one of the most important developments of the world and of history, he must not and cannot remain indifferent and silent. The development which is beginning to occur in the Soviet Union and in the Eastern Bloc is not an ordinary event; it is very important.

There are many events taking place in the world today: all those seminars, conferences, general assemblies which are being held in connection with specific global issues. You can see that the imam pays no particular attention to those. The country's officials deal with those things; they send messages or take part in them.

However, such an event is not an ordinary one. It is not like a UN General Assembly, the Paris chemical weapons conference, or other such events. It is a very significant event, of equal significance with the appearance of Marxism, of Marx and Hegel, and their like. [passage omitted] It is a very important event.

The fact that the imam sees that a person emerges in the center and the birthplace of Marxism, the birthplace of the first Marxist government, and that he finds the courage to overlook that long period and to admit frankly to weaknesses, mistakes, and deviations in that significant world movement—which encompasses a superpower and several other important countries—well, that is not an event which the leader of an ideological revolution can view with indifference and remain silent. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that the leader of an Islamic revolution must speak to the leader of such a movement. It is a kind of respect for such courage; it is one dimensional. However, this respect is seen in the words of someone who wants to speak of the Koran and who wants to use this as the basis of divine inspiration, far from geographic and ethnic prejudices.

It is praise for that movement and criticism of the declining current of Marxism, which during the past decades has drawn so many young people into decadance, deception, and the quicksand of materialism. It is at the same time, a fatherly, friendly note from a religious official, not a political person, not from an economist, but from someone who wants to convey to others the message of the Koran, the heavenly message.

It is saying: Now that you have found the courage and boldness to break that spell, think a bit more deeply, look around you, study other ideological currents. And from our point of view—we who are Muslims and who give our lives and our existence to Islam—there is no place, no center, no message, and no ideological source stronger than the divine message, the Koran, which is the last divine message for humanity. [crowd chants]

Another aspect of the issue is that when such a great event is occurring near our borders, where tens of millions of Muslims are waiting to hear from the leader of the Islamic revolution about the events in their country, it is right for the leader of the revolution to give them a present. It was a fatherly and compassionate message, which said: Now that you have broken that spell, do not fall under another. The seemingly green grass of the West, that glamorous palace, built on the ruins of the oppressed and colonized world and painted with the blood of millions, must not fool a brave, fledgling movement and drown it in the quagmire of Western capitalism.

It was a piece of advice apt to be given by the imam; and he did so. He opened a channel of communication with a newly developed ideological movement. They too, declared that they will send their views on the imam's message. Regardless of what these may be, the important thing is to discuss and analyze the ideology and the course of action.

Another important international issue this week was the chemical weapons conference in Paris. In my opinion, it was one of the unique tricks of history. About 150 or 160 countries came together there; heads of state, foreign ministers, world personalities; about 900 people gathered there to discuss a certain issue. World public opinion was about to bring matters to a head, but unfortunately, they got together and squashed it without achieving a proper result. [passage omitted]

Why was the conference held? Because of Halabjah, northern Iraq, and the innocent Kurds whose bodies were not found in the ruins of their homes. They used bulldozers to bury them under the rubble. However, those who made opening speeches at the conference did not say a word about Iraq or Halabjah. They said: We will talk about the future. That is really strange. [passage omitted] Of course, our foreign minister angrily objected to the conference procedure, saying: You are distorting the issues. There was some propaganda activity by the media and some of the speakers, but this had little effect. The U.S. secretary of state did not say a word about Halabjah, Iraq, Sar Dasht, and the Iraqi Kurds; nor did the French president. The leaders said nothing, but some free-thinkers said a few words and the newspapers wrote a few reports.

When the world sees how you deal with a criminal who has done all this to his own people and nearby Kurdish towns such as Sar Dasht, it will refuse to believe you whatever you say. All this will result in nothing. They issued a 6-point statement saying: We will oppose chemical weapons production in the future, destroy the chemical weapons stores, and prevent their manufacture. Yet their own stores are full. The United States has manufactured so many that it has no more room. The Soviet Union has manufactured so many, that it is forced to destroy them. France has manufactured so many, that its stores are full, and the French people are afraid of accidental leaks. They armed Iraq, gave Iraq factories, raw materials, and the technology. [passage ommited]

Our next issue is Lebanon, where at present we are witnessing the most bitter fighting. Two armed Shi'ite groups are fighting each other. They have been engaged in killing each other and ruining peop;e's lives for days now. Every one of them feels that his action is justified. Meanwhile, Israel, the Phalangists, and the principal foe of Iran, the Ba'thists in Iraq, are watching this massacre from their comfortable positions. They are watching the Shi'ite people being killed by the two Shi'ite factions. Instead of serving their religion, they are busy committing crimes.

The Islamic Republic detests those who point those guns at their Shi'ite brothers, guns which should be pointed at Israel. [crowd chants] As you can see, these prayers participants through their chantings have confirmed their condemnation of the way you are killing each other in the name of Shi'ism. The faction that gives up the fighting first is in our eyes considered the winner, and the one which fires the final bullet the traitor.

Opposition Group Calls on Gorbachev for Help

AU1301170989 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 13 (AFP)—An Iranian opposition group on Friday urged Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to help stop the alleged execution in Iranian jails of Iranian militants.

The leftist Democratic Party of the Iranian People, founded in 1988 outside Iran by dissidents of Iran's outlawed Tudeh Communist Party, also called on Mr. Gorbachev to explain Moscow's silence over the "repression" in Iran.

The group, in an open letter to the Soviet leader, noted that Moscow abstained from voting last month when the United Nations presented a resolution denouncing human rights abuses in Iran.

The letter said Iran had been carrying out "massive executions" over the past few months, in a campaign targeting several leaders in the Tudeh Party, and urged Mr. Gorbachev to intervene.

Tudeh has accused the Iranian authorities of executing 31 of its members while the London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International, last month denounced Iran for carrying out a mass-scale execution campaign.

ETTELA'AT Editorials on Khomeyni Letter

Message Said 'Unprecedented'

NC1601165489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jan 89 pp 1, 14

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "The Manifestation of Islamic Ethics in the Imam's Message"]

[Excerpts] Political observers and analysts have described the letter sent by the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev as an unprecedented, surprising, and unexpected act having positive and constructive results and impact.

Undoubtedly, the leaders of the Soviet Union had not foreseen or expected such a move either. Facts show that they have welcomed this important incident. Now that the door has been opened in this way, it is expected that the other side will also naturally repond and react, thus raising the level of relations and contacts, as this is the first time that the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran has directly sent a letter to the leader of any country. [passage omitted]

The new and important relations that are being established after a relatively long period of stagnation and coldness, with the direct contact between the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, are expected to have positive and constructive impact on the solution of many existing problems. We can refer to two issues as examples. Of course, these two issues are not the only ones.

The Afghanistan problem is one of these issues. If the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the direct talks with the Afghan mujahidin really are the result of the realistic attitude of Gorbachev and the other Soviet leaders, then naturally this should continue to the point where the government of Afghanistan is handed over to the mujahidin and those elected by popular vote. Islamic and revolutionary Iran too will definitely be willing to cooperate toward this end and toward preventing the Western superpower from intervening in the future government of the Afghan people.

Also, the Soviet Union can undertake a constructive role in the Iran-Iraq issue and in the establishment of a just and lasting peace. It can use all the means necessary, as best it can, to force the Iraqi regime to accept the Security Council resolution and withdraw its troops to the international borders.

All these and many other issues are normal and logical expectations that should be met in order to prove goodwill and good-neighborliness.

10 Jan Editorial

NC1601180289 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jan 89 p 2

[First of two editorials entitled: "The Imam's Letter to Gorbachev"]

[Text] Various points emerge from the contents of the imam's letter and from Gorbachev's approach to it. However, as Gorbachev has not yet answered the imam's message, one cannot evaluate this important phenomenon in a comprehensive way.

1. The fact that a letter was sent by his holiness the imam to the leader of the world of socialism and communism is of special importance in itself. This letter shows that one can talk to those who doubt God and can even invite them to come to Qom to become aware of the subtle depth of divine and Islamic teachings. This position by the imam and his open offer to explain divine and Islamic ideology, as well as the clarification that "The Islamic Repubic of Iran, as the greatest and most powerful base of the world of Islam, can easily help to fill the ideological vacuum of your—the Soviet Union's—system" places an extremely important duty before the Islamic scholars, philosophers, jurisconsults, and this duty means that by bearing in mind the imam's invitation, they should present Islam as a belief that can meet man's moral and material needs.

2. In a letter that his holiness the imam sent to Hojjat ol-Eslam Qadiri on 5 October 1988, he stated: "We should try to break down the walls of ignorance and superstition in order to be able to reach the limpid waters of the true Islam of the Prophet Muhammad—may God's peace be on him and his descendants—and Islam is awe-inspiring in the world today."

One of the walls of ignorance and superstition is the avoidance of or flight from confrontation or discussion with persons who think differently and have other beliefs and values. Islamic reasoning manifests its wealth when it confronts other ideologies. Let us recall how the valuable and effective book on the method of realism was published by scholar Tabataba'i, may God rest his soul, at a time when he felt a sense of responsibility when faced with a wave of atheism.

3. Even though the principles of materialistic thought and world outlook are clear, nevertheless the recognition of their various phases and forms in the various countries of the Eastern bloc and the Soviet Union is a necessary factor. An attempt should be made to become acquainted with socialism and communism and their impact and effect on the various countries and societies. The martyr philosopher Mohtahari once said that we should have a department for the study of Marxism at the theological college and that the professor in the department should inevitably be someone who was a follower of that ideology. The world today is a world of thought and not a world of violence, of labels, of atheists. And the imam's letter is itself a clear picture of discussions between the divine and the materialistic world outlooks. In other words, if tomorrow Gorbachev says in his answer to the imam that a recognition of the Islamic Republic from a scientific and socialist point of view is not enough, and he invites a number of our scholars to go there and to learn scientific philosophy as they see it, then this proposal should be welcomed.

11 Jan Editorial

NC1601190589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Jan 89 p 2

[Second of two editorials entitled: "The Imam's Letter to Gorbachev"]

[Text] 4. Gorbachev's perestroyka shows that he has based the changes and reforms that he has brought about in Soviet society on a new way of thinking and a new approach which are moving away from the principles of socialism and communism.

In other words, his measures are not based solely on economic and political positions. Gorbachev has attempted a kind of review of Marxist thought and ideology. Castro's dislike for Gorbachev's measures may well stem from this. The imam's letter refers to those very changes and reforms that Gorbachev has in mind, and states that these are "God" and "religious faith." "God" and "faith" are not things that one can easily neglect, and society cannot be led to peace and salvation by ignoring faith in God. The leaders of a society must prevent the spread of an artificial faith. In other words, the existence of counterfeit coins is in itself the best proof that genuine coins exist.

A few years ago we witnessed a scene at the Lenin Museum in Red Square. This scene stayed in our minds for a long time. Some groups of elementary school students had been taken to see the museum. An anthem was being sung in the hall and all the students were standing still. The anthem was about Lenin. We saw tears in the eyes of some of the children. Their feeling was a religious one—a feeling of worship. But the Soviet Government directs these feelings and needs toward Lenin. They were once directed toward Stalin. But when idols are broken, people break inside as well, and broken human beings then turn their perplexed eyes to the green orchards of capitalism.

His holiness the imam has referred to the most important point in his letter and has opened the door for talks and discussions. In short, Marxism has been tested for 70 years and has shown that not only is it incapable of meeting the moral needs of people but it is also vulnerable and unsuccessful as far as the material aspects of life are concerned. And it is here that Islam should be propounded as an ideology that can meet both the material needs of the people and their moral and idealistic needs.

15 Jan Editorial

LD1501193989 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT said in an editorial Sunday the imam's recent message to the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev was addressed not solely to the Soviet official but in fact to the world people and world governments, as well as to government officials at home.

The following is the text of the daily's commentary.

"Imam Khomeyni's message to Gorbachev although sent to his person in fact addresses itself not to one individual but rather to familiar personalities both in the Soviet society and its ruling system and conscientious non-Muslims and to other personalities in Iran and other Muslim states.

"The imam's message in fact draws the attention of educated persons and intellectuals to the cultural resources in Iran. The letter may be considered to have addressed itself also to government administrators in Iran who in their long struggle with their daily tasks and in the conduct of their political and economic duties are gradually overlooking the inherent cultural and religious resources in this country.

"The imam's letter also addresses itself to all of us who, as a result of our particular performance whether deliberate or other, have counteracted the cultural role of Islam.

"The imam's message addresses itself to Iranian intellectuals as well.

"The imam's political messages have always impressed individuals throughout the world... his message also demonstrates courage and therefore it would be wise to consider the implication of his message and its possible messages to religious schools and personalities in Iran as well."

Commentary on Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

LD1601133189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Station commentary: "Afghanistan in the Throes of Political Developments"]

[Text] One month remains before the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. In that connection the conflicting remarks of Soviet officials have kept alive the speculation and doubts about a possible delay in the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Although the Soviet foreign minister stressed that Soviet forces will definitely leave Afghanistan, nevertheless he made no reference to the time stipulated in the Geneva accords for the completion of the withdrawal on the 15 February.

Shevardnadze's remarks yesterday in Kabul on the continued war in Afghanistan and the fact that his country will continue to give weapons to the Kabul regime confirm that the suspicions of the Afghan mujahidin about the Soviet Union's political goals are not groundless. Nevertheless, political observers believe that the Soviet foreign minister's recent remarks stating renewed support for the Kabul regime, particularly military support, is a reflection of Moscow's deep anxiety about developments in Afghanistan.

Although Shevardnadze's 3-day trip to Kabul included severe warnings to the Afghan mujahidin, it also formed part of the Kremlin's recent efforts for the political resolution of the Afghan issue. Those efforts from the start had in view the political future of the Kabul regime and not the future of Afghanistan. For that very reason the last round of talks in Islamabad resulted in deadlock.

According to Afghan mujahidin leaders, they felt that at their last round of talks with representatives of the Soviet Government Moscow's aim was to gain a political and propaganda advantage, and that they are trying to suggest to international public opinion that the Afghan mujahidin want war and bloodshed and the Soviet Union wants peace and security. Therefore, it was felt that there was no need to continue the talks.

The Soviet Union's excessive insistence on the formation of a possible government with a wide popular base in Kabul, which would make possible the participation of the current Kabul regime, may cause defeat for the Moscow's policy for the political resolution of the Afghan crisis. On the one hand, although the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan may be interpreted as a positive step, nevertheless the lack of realism on the part of Soviet officials in conducting direct talks with Afghan mujahidin makes it inevitable for the involved parties to resort to a military solution.

The imposition of a military solution for the resolution of the Afghan issue will, in view of the 10-year experience of the parties involved, not only lead to the continuation of bloodshed in that country, but will ultimately help the aims of the United States in the region. For that reason, the continuation of talks between the Afghan mujahidin in Iran and Pakistan and the Soviet Union has been viewed as a positive step by observers and, in addition to ending the occupation of Afghanistan, it can prevent world powers from taking the place of the Soviet forces.

Undoubtedly, for the realization of such a sensitive matter that is linked to the future and the destiny of the 10-year battle of the mujahidin and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, unity is the only key to the resolution of the Afghan issue. Without a doubt the mujahidin, whether Sunni or Shi'ite, need extensive cooperation with each other to reconstruct Afghanistan after the total withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the establishment of a Muslim and popular government. This important task depends entirely on the unity and solidarity of the Afghan mujahidin. In a new stage of the struggle for the future of Afghanistan that can be a guarantee for true indpendence and freedom for that country.

Soviet Team Inspects Liquid Gas Export Route

NC1701094489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] A Soviet team of experts inspected the route to be used for transporting liquid gas from Iran to the Soviet Union yesterday. According to the Central News Unit, the Soviet team, which is led by the country's deputy minister for gas and is currently visiting Gilan Province, inspected the transport routes and the station used for gas surveys of Astara District, making a close study of the entire business operations.

The Iranian deputy director of operations for the National Iranian Gas Company, who accompanied the Soviet team, commented on the visit and said: On the basis of an earlier gas export agreement with the Soviet Union, this team will study and assess the details concerning the manner of exporting liquid gas and the Islamic Republic of Iran's facilities during their stay in Gilan Province. He added: The gas, which is of the (?bottled) type, is to be exported according to a timetable beginning in mid-1989. The National Iranian Gas Company is fully equipped to eliminate all problesm by that time and to prepare the transport routes for exporting liquid gas.

It may be recalled that the final assessment of the details concerning the export of gas to the USSR will be carried out at the joint session of the Soviet and Iranian economic experts in Tehran.

Majlis Speaker on 'Strategic' Ties With PRC

LD1401185389 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today described the Islamic Republic's ties with the People's Republic of China as "strategic, which we intend to further strengthen."

In a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Beijing Ala'eddin Borujerdi the Majlis speaker added "we are willing to expand relations with China in all fields, and appreciate the Chinese leaders' efforts in this regard."

Pakistan-Based Mujahidin Chiefs Arrive for Seminar

LD1401060489 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 14, IRNA—Leaders of the Peshawar-based seven-party Afghan alliance, several independent Afghan personalities and former Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi [name as received] arrived in Tehran Friday night to attend the two-day seminar on Afghanistan.

The Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin leaders along with the heads of the eight-group coalition of Afghan mujahidin in Iran and experts from France, Pakistan, Britain, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Afghanistan are to discuss Afghanistan issues in the seminar due to open here Sunday.

Experts are to present papers in the seminar sponsored by the Iranian Foreign Ministry Office for Political and International Studies.

The seminar will also be attended by U.N. representatives and will deal with historical, strategic, cultural, economic and international aspects of Afghanistan issue.

Spokesman of the seven-party coalition Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, Burhanuddin Rabbani, Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, and Mawlawi Mo'azen [name as received] are among those who arrived from Pakistan.

Khamene'i Sends Message

NC1501080889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] In a message to the seminar on Afghanistan, which is to open in Tehran today with the participation of Muslim resistance forces of Afghanistan and Iranian and foreign dignitaries, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i called on all resistance and struggling Muslim forces of Afghanistan to display unity, avoid any kind of dichotomy and discord, and, by maintaining their alertness, prevent other foreign forces from infiltrating into Afghanistan and preventing the formation of Afghanistan's Islamic identity once the occupying forces are forced to leave that country.

In his message, the president points out that during the past decade, most of Afghanistan's cities and villages have been destroyed and nearly 1 million martyrs have been offered for the blood-stained Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. He stressed that despite these problems and calamities, the Muslim nation has fought in Afghanistan's Islamic struggle with empty hands and by relying on God, and it has not given up its holy jihad, not even for a moment. Ultimately, once again the tale of the invincibility of the big powers was proved false. Undoubtedly, the main element behind such a brave struggle has been the inspiration from strength-nurturing Islam.

In another part of the president's message to the Afghanistan seminar he says that in view of the fact that the mujahidin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan are now on the eve of fulfilling the divine promises of victory, and in view of the experiences gained from the Islamic revolution in Iran, I deem it necessary to mention some noteworthy points as far as Afghanistan's future is concerned. We view the direct talks between the Soviet Union and the mujahidin based in Iran and Pakistan in a positive light. The Afghan mujahidin should know that these talks are part of the range of struggles by the people and by the military commanders, and that it is the totality of these struggles and efforts that will bring victory to the believers. The creation of discord among the mujahidin, the emigrants, and the people of Afghanistan under various religious, racial, and cultural labels is yet another one of the objectives of the foreign powers. It is aimed at weakening the struggling morale of the Afghan people as well as influencing the future of this Muslim country.

From now on, the unity and solidarity of all the groups in Afghanistan will be able, more than before, to solve problems, and the Afghan mujahidin should consider this and crush any kind of slogan of discord. Even though the Muslim mujahidin of Afghanistan have aroused the indignation of the foreign power with their persistent struggles, they should not neglect the plots by the U.S. superpower. The United States intends to reap fruits from the blood of the 1 million martyrs who have died in Afghanistan's Islamic struggles. It intends to reap fruits from the decade of homelessness of this country's people and to create a presence and influence in the future of Afghanistan.

The mujahidin, emigrants, and people of Afghanistan should, as in the past, be alert. Just as they forced the occupying forces to leave Afghanistan, they should not allow any other foreign power to infiltrate this Islamic country. Afghanistan should enter the new era with an Islamic and nonaligned identity.

During the past decade, the Islamic Republic of Iran has exerted all its efforts to mitigate the problems of its Afghan brothers, despite its domestic problems stemming from the imposed war, and it has sympathized with them as much as it could. From now on, too, we will use all our potential and remain next to our mujahid and emigrant people and the Muslim people of Afghanistan, cooperating with them and assisting them in various fields.

Khamene'i, Velayati Speeches

LD1501100389 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Iran Sunday urged the Soviet Union to show good will in solving the Afghan issue by accepting the leading role of Afghan mujahidin in deciding the future of their war ravaged country.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati told a seminar on Afghanistan that the mujahidin were the true representatives of the Afghan people.

"It is proper for the leaders of the Soviet Union to show their good faith and accept the will of the Afghan nation in choosing their real representatives," he said.

"(The Soviets) by looking at their experience of the past ten years should not intend to impose any view other than that desired by the people (of Afghanistan)."

The 2-day seminar opened by President 'Ali Khamene'i this morning is attended by some 200 foreign guests including many leaders of the mujahidin based in Pakistan and Iran who will be discussing ways to consolidate their ties.

Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, the leader of the Pakistan based Islamic Alliance told the delegates that in talks last week with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov in Islamabad, the Soviet official did not give enough weight to the position of the mujahidin.

"In a press conference after the talks, Vorontsov accused us of talking about things that belong to the Middle Ages," Mujadeddi said. This was an apparant reference to Moscow's efforts to convince the mujahidin to join a communist Kabul Government and prevent a mujahidin dominated Islamic government from taking shape.

The Iranian foreign minister said that it was Tehran's belief that the people of neighbouring Afghanistan should decide their own future and preserve their Islamic and non-aligned identity.

The future Kabul government would need great amount of help to get over huge initial problems and in this respect "Iran and Pakistan must have a central role as they have had in the past."

But he warned that the vast problems facing that country could not be solved unless the various resistance groups remain united. "Forging greater unity and solidarity among all the Afghan mujahidin is the key to the final solution of the Afghanistan issue and fortunately positive steps have been taken in this direction," Velayati said.

Spokesman for the Iran-based mujahidin Muhammad Karim Khalili stressed that after faith in Islam, the people of Afghanistan owed their near victory over the Soviet occupation forces to their solidarity.

Reading a statement from the eight-party Afghan coalition in Iran, Khalili added that the future government of Afghanistan should include representatives from all Islamic faiths—Sunni and Shi'ite—and the different ethnic nationalities.

The Afghnan resistance leaders will hold meetings concurrent with the seminar to strengthen ties between the Sunni and Shi'ite groups aimed at deriving a single strategy against the Moscow-backed regime of President Najibullah.

The mujahidin say that they currently control between 80 to 90 percent of the country.

Mujadeddi on Unified Leadership

LD1501174989 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—To avoid a serious conflict when the Soviets complete their pullout from Afghanistan the mujahidin need a single leadership, a mujahidin leader stressed.

Sebghatullah Mujadeddi also said talks with the Soviet Union would not resume unless Moscow dropped its insistance on preserving the communist regime in Kabul. "I don't think the Kabul Government can resist for long after the Soviets leave," he said in an interview with IRNA Sunday. "It should either surrender or be destroyed by the mujahidin."

But he warned that the withdrawal of Soviet troops which is due to be completed next month and the inevitable deterioration of the Kabul regime's authority could create a dangerous vacuum which the mujahidin had to fill or face possible "bloodshed".

"What is important is that before the Russians leave our jihad organization should form a government and decide on a single leadership to prevent a possible bloodshed later." For this reason, he added, the mujahidin were working hard to reach a common agreement on the issue.

Mujadeddi who currently leads the Afghan mujahidin coalition in Pakistan was speaking during a break at a seminar on Afghanistan being held at the Institute for Political and International Studies.

On the recent stepped up contacts between the Sunni and Shi'a groups based in Pakistan and Iran, Mujadeddi said it would be ideal for both sides to join a single organization but practically it would be "very difficult".

"Even if we don't succeed at this at least there should be general solidarity among them and differences over basic issues should be resolved and there should be a single leadership," he said.

With Iran's recent agreement, the Pakistan-based mujahidin will soon open a representative office in Tehran and the Iran-based groups would set up a similar office in Peshawar, Pakistan, to improve coordination, he added.

The Shi'a mujahidin representatives joined their Sunni brothers in Islamabad last week for joint talks with the Soviet deputy foreign minister even though the Soviet official had earlier held separate talks with them in Tehran.

Mujadeddi said more talks with the Soviets were "not necessary" at the moment and thus not planned. But they could resume if the Soviets gave up on the Kabul regime. He repeated a charge made during a speech to the seminar that the Vorontsov had made offensive remarks about the mujahidin during a press conference after the talks.

The Soviets were trying to portray themselves as peace-seekers while accusing the mujahidin as war-mongers. Thus no new discussions would be held as long as Moscow "changed its stand and stopped insisting on the existance of its hand-picked regime in Kabul."

On the question of former King Zahir Shah, Mujadeddi said there was still no consensus among the mujahidin on whether to accept or reject him.

"Our position from the beginning has been that every Muslim has the right to take part in the jihad," he said. "We respect the will of the Afghan people. Any decision they or the (future temporary) Council of Advisors make will be respected."

He said there was no direct contact between the mujahidin and Zahir Shah but on occasion mujahidin representatives held meetings with him and there was also telephone contacts from time to time to exchange views on developments.

Rabbani on Islamic State

LD1501191689 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—A prominent Afghan resistance leader accused Moscow of trying to blame the mujahidin on lack of results from recent talks between Soviet and mujahidin representatives on the future of Afghanistan.

However Burhanuddin Rabbani told a seminar on Afghanistan Sunday that the mujahidin would always be prepared to resume talks with the Soviets of they were "serious and honest".

A Pakistani scholar also said the Islamic Republic was best suited to give advice to the mujahidin on their future government and Iran's success at this task could make it the leading nation of the Islamic world.

"The mujahidin will never close the door on negotiations," said Rabbani, former leader of the Afghan mujahidin ALliance in Pakistan in a speech at the Institute for Political and International Studies.

But he stressed that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov who has led Moscow's negotiating team in talks with the mujahidin had "threatened" the people of Afghanistan and was trying to use the talks as a political ploy.

"Everywhere they talk about peace," he said. "But we are the ones who are dying and they are the aggressors."

The seminar which will end Monday is being attended by some 200 delegates, mostly Afghan personalities, as well as Third World and Western experts and diplomats.

Rabbani said warnings of a "second Lebanon" in Afghanistan after the expected fall of the Kabul regime following the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal next month had no purpose but to discourage the Afghan people. But he said problems and shortcomings were natural after any social and political transformation.

"We will not allow conflicts or let brothers kill brothers," he said. "But during the transitional stage Afghanistan will witness a series of difficulties. This is not new and it has always been the case in other social upheavals."

Rabbani also stressed that Afghanistan's future government will not be "useless nationalist and secular" but an Islamic one with the participation of all religious and ethnic groups.

Also Dr Ijaz Gilani of the Pakistan Institute for the Political Studies in a speech said the Islamic Republic was the ideal government to give advice to the mujahidin on the formation of their government. Such help and advice could also give Iran a chance to lead the Islamic world, he believed.

"Of all the friends of Afghanistan (the Islamic Republic) is the most experienced to advise the Afghans on what course to take and what to avoid," Dr Gilani said.

This was on the basis of Iran's good and bad lessons during the past ten years since the Islamic revolution, he said.

"In so doing... there is a great promise for Iran also of getting a second chance of playing a leadership role in the Muslim world," he said.

Dr Gilani believed Iran got its first chance ten years ago, "but largely because of the machinations of those opposed to the revolution, and partly because of its own inadequecy, the Islamic revolution could not" fulfill such a role. "If such a role can be played, beyond the dictates of such differences, it will be a great contribution to the Muslim world."

Musavi Meets Afghan Leaders

LD1501213289 Tehran IRNA in English 2115 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 15, IRNA—Representatives of Afghan Muslims and leaders of mujahidin met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi here today.

The Iranian prime minister said he was pleased to meet the visiting Afghan Muslims and expressed hope that Afghan Muslims will recognize the value of unity in their struggle for independence.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali-Akbar Velayati who was present in the meeting presented a report on a seminar by international scholars about the political and social status in that country. The seminar started with a message from President Khamene'i Sunday and is in progress in Tehran.

In the Sunday session of the seminar scholars from various parts of the world lectured on different aspects of social, political, economic and religious life in Afghanistan and invariably emphasized on the cultural and religious frame of the Afghan society as the dominating factor in shaping the future political and social life in that country.

Among lecturers in today's session of the seminar were Ijaz Safi' Gilani from the Political Studies Institute of Islamabad, Mrs Ameneh Afzali a scholar from Afghanistan, Afghan historian and writer Dr Kazem Rashtia, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Zahedi from the seven-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin.

Velayati on Afghan Situation

LD1601105789 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Proposals on the formation of a mujahidin-led government after Soviet troops leave Afghanistan was discussed in a meeting between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Afghan resistance leaders here Monday.

Velayati told the current leader of the mujahidin alliance in Pakistan Sebghatullah Mujaddedi that the guerrillas must be "completely alert" to be able to control the internal situation after the Soviet withdrawal due to 15 February.

Mujaddedi who along with other mujahidin leaders is attending a seminar on Afghanistan warned Sunday that unless the resistance groups agreed on a single leadership soon serious conflicts may break out among them.

"What is important is that before the Russians leave, our jihad organisation should form a government and decide on a single leadership to prevent a possible bloodshed," he told IRNA.

Velayati pledged Tehran political and financial support to help the future representative Afghan Government to rebuild the country devastated by ten years of war between the mujahidin and Soviet and Moscow-backed Kabul Government forces.

"We will never forget your material and spiritual support for the Afghan nation despite the fact that you were also involved in an imposed war and facing difficulties created by the arrogance powers during the last ten years," Mujaddedi said. He reminded that Afghans and Iranians had a common religion and language as well as common enemies.

The Iranian foreign minister also met Burhanuddin Rabbani who was recently replaced by Mujaddedi as the leader of the seven-party alliance of Pakistan.

Other than issues on future Kabul Government the two sides discussed the importance of women role in Afghanistan.

"From now on we must prepare comprehensive social and cultural plans regarding one half of the Afghan population, the women that is," Rabbani said. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran could be a good model for Afghanistan in this respect.

A number of politicallly active Afghan women have taken part in the Tehran seminar. Two have made speeches.

Majlis Speaker Urges 'Prudence'

LD1701115889 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a group of visiting Afghan mujahidin leaders Tuesday that they must show more prudence to capitalize on their achievements.

"What has so far been done is good," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. "Mujahidin leaders have showed they are acting wisely and have very well exploited international political trends in leading their struggle."

However the Majlis speaker reminded "what is ahead of us in the future requires more prudence."

He also reiterated Iran's readiness to transfer its reconstruction experiences to the mujahidin to rehabilitate their country once they achieve ultimate victory.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who was present at the meeting, presented Hashemi-Rafsanjani with a report on the outcome of the seminar on Afghanistan organized by his ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies on 15-16 January.

The Afghan leaders replied that they expected the Islamic Republic to help mujahidin gain final victory and to frustrate the East and West in their attempt to prevent the establishment of an Islamic government in Kabul.

Seminar Ends; Statement Issued

LD1601193789 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—A statement issued at the end of a two day seminar on Afghanistan today called for "immediate and unconditional" withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Praising the resistance of the Afghan mujahidin and their full support for the Muslim people of Afghanistan, it said they were now on the "threshold of a great victory."

The seminar was organised by the Institute for Political and International Studies of the Foreign Ministry and attended by Afghan mujahidin, Red Cross and the United Nations High Commisioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials, as well as experts from 13 countries including Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, UK, and China.

A message by President 'Ali Khamene'i opened the conference which was also addressed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The 10-point statement said all the freedom-loving people of the world had extended support for "the victory of the mujahidin and for the independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan." To achieve this, it said, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and other Islamic countries had played an "effective role."

After the victory and in the new stage of Afghanistan's history, the political structure of the government and the procedure of its cultural, economic and social reconstruction on the basis of Islamic beliefs are among the most important issues which must be taken into regard from now on, it said.

The statement stressed the need for unity and coherence of all combatant Afghan groups "at this historical juncture" to guarantee victory as well as political and economic progress.

"The future Afghanistan, as an Islamic, independent, and non-aligned state in the international and regional scene, will play its positive role in consolidating world peace," it concluded.

Prime Minister Musavi Departs for Italy

LD1601055089 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi left Tehran for Rome Monday morning on a five-day official visit to Italy and Poland.

The premier was seen off at the airport by high presidential advisor Mostafa Mir Salim, Defence Minister Brigadier Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and foreign diplomats in Tehran.

The prime minister is accompanied by Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, head of the Commerce Ministry 'Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Qom Majlis deputy and head of Majlis Foreign Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali and officials from other ministries.

Velayati Interviewed on Toxins, Foreign Credit

PM1301115089 Paris LIBERATION in French 10 Jan 89 p 18

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by "J.G." and "A.V." in Paris; date not given]

[Text] LIBERATION: The Paris conference final document will apparently only refer to Iraq's use of chemical weapons by mentioning "recent events." Is this wording adequate?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: I hope that this conference will produce a solution which makes it possible to actually ban the use of chemical weapons and to strengthen the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Although it is an initial positive step, what is happening is certainly not ideal. At all events, history will judge the attitude adopted by the international community toward countries which have used chemical weapons. If those states are punished, others will certainly learn the lesson.... If not, all our efforts here are pointless.

LIBERATION: The Arab countries and some Third World countries want to establish a link between nuclear and chemical weapons, whereas you just want to obtain a condemnation of chemical weapons. Iran is therefore in the industrialized countries' camp....

'Ali Akbar Velayati: Iran has undoubtedly been the first victim of chemical weapons since the 1925 protocol was signed. In these circumstances, it is natural that we should insist on their being banned. When you ask the whole world to come here to discuss a problem and other questions are suddenly raised, it only undermines the most important issue.

LIBERATION: Did Iraq's use of chemical weapons play a decisive role in the conflict—and in your decision to accept a cease-fire—or was it just a case of a particularly deadly weapon being used?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: It was both. These are horrible weapons which nobody can imagine being used on modern battlefields. The main reason why we are opposing their use is that they kill civilians, soldiers, children, and old people indiscriminately. However, the Iraqis began using them in 1981, and that did not prevent them from suffering resounding defeats over the past 7 years. This means that from the military viewpoint, those weapons were not such a decisive factor as people think. They simply demonstrated that Iraq is prepared to use a criminal weapon and does not respect the rules of war.

LIBERATION: You say you have not used chemical weapons. Do you have such weapons?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: No, we do not need them because we do not want to use them. Producing them is not a problem; that is very easy and any country which decides to do so can produce them.

LIBERATION: Imam Khomeyni has just sent a message to Mikhail Gorbachev. Do you hope for a rapprochement with the USSR?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: The imam's message contains two parts: One is devoted to Iranian-Soviet bilateral relations, and the other to ideological developments in the USSR. The imam asks Mr Gorbachev, who is a courageous man, to think about the question of God, because he is now making some kind of reassessment of Marxism, and atheism is one of its foundations.

LIBERATION: Is the U.S.-Soviet rapprochement not likely to greatly restrict Iran's room to maneuver because it has always "steered a course" between the United States and the USSR?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: The fact that those countries have abandoned their military competition does not mean that their economic and commercial competition has ended. The USSR and the United States are not going to unite....

LIBERATION: Several Iranian diplomats are present in Washington in the Iranian interests section in the Algerian Embassy. The Americans are asking for their diplomats to be present in Tehran, where Switzerland represents their interests. Will you grant them this reciprocity?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: (He smiled—LIBERATION editor's note) No. I do not think so.

LIBERATION: Are you going to request foreign credit to rebuild your country?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: Although foreign cooperation is vital for rebuilding the country, we must be as self-reliant as possible in order to safeguard our independence. We are very reluctant to run up debts but we do not rule out the possibility of requesting credit. We will choose countries which are prepared to grant us such credit and to participate in joint projects in our country.

LIBERATION: Is there not some inconsistency between your desire to normalize your relations with the Western countries and the execution of large numbers of prisoners which have been taking place in Iran for several weeks?

'Ali Akbar Velayati: These reports come from the Iranian opposition.... Some of them (Mas'ud Rajavi's mojahedin—LIBERATION editor's note) claim that some of their people have died in prison whereas they were killed on the battlefields in the final days of the Iran-Iraq war when they entered Iranian territory alongside the Iraqi troops to fight their own people.

Commentary Views Hizballah-Amal Fighting

LD1501205489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1629 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] Sporadic clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah and the current ripe grounds for tension between these two Shi'ite paramilitary organizations are the forerunners of future battles. Since last Sunday, clashes between the two groups to gain control over a small area in southern Lebanon have left about 100 dead. This region is called Iqlim al-Tuffah and is in the northern part of southern Lebanon, east of the Palestinian 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, where the pro-'Arafat Palestinian factions are in charge. [passage omitted]

The two warring sides currently have a total fighting force of about 1,500 and are killing one another with various weapons and without any mercy. If there is a 1 or 2 day lull in the fighting, it is used to draw up new military plans; it is an armed pause. It is obvious that these clashes will have no victor and will only weaken the role of Shi'ites in Lebanon's political arena. This fact delights the Zionist regime, which has announced: These clashes will reduce the frequency of attacks on us and the South Lebanon Army.

On the other hand, the rightist Lebanese Christian forces, which take orders from Michel 'Awn's illegitimate government, are waiting with the Iraqi regime to see that the Shi'ite brothers kill as many of each other's men as possible, so that they will then become stronger and able to put pressure on Iran and Syria in Lebanon.

In order to combat such a situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a delegation to Damascus and Beirut, whose schedule includes implementation of a speedy cease-fire followed by submission of a plan for the resumption of political talks between the two sides. In this same connection, Shaykh Shams al-Din, the vice president of the Supreme Shi'ite Council of Lebanon, and Sayyid Husayn Fadallah, the two famous Lebanese clergymen, met for the first time in 9 months, and it is said that an urgent plan has been proposed to establish a preliminary cease-fire, on which the Amal Movement and Hizballah have reached an agreement. Nevertheless, there is not very much optimism because as long as the cause of the clashes and rivalry between the Amal Movement and Hizballah are not removed and the grounds remain ripe for tension, the possibility for clashes remains, clashes which bring pain to the heart of every Muslim and which waste the combative forces which should be fighting on the front against the Zionist enemy.

Anti-Smuggling Law Enforced Starting 21 Jan

LD1401112789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] To enforce the new law to combat narcotics' smuggling, the Islamic Revolution Committees of Yazd, Kerman, Esfahan, and Semnan will implement the security belt program on the edge of the desert.

According to a Central News Unit report, the commander of the Semnan Islamic Revolution Committee said: The plan will be put into operation as of 21 January. Islamic Revolution Committee Guards will be stationed in an area 1000-km long and 500-km deep along the country's eastern borders.

Drugs, Weapons Seized in Khorasan Province

LD1501154089 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Over 190 kilograms of opium and heroin were seized in Khorasan Province during the past two days.

The haul included 130 kg of opium retrieved from the false-bottom of a truck carrying fertilisers around Nahbandan [placename as received], in the Lut Desert (Southern Khorasan).

In Sandran District, Gendarmerie forces nabbed three smugglers, seizing 35.5 kgs of opium, one kg of heroin, three Kalashnikov guns, a hand grenade and 337 cartridges.

Also 13.4 kg of opium was seized from two smugglers in Miami [placename as received], east of the provincial capital Mashhad.

Drug Smugglers Executed in Several Cities

LD1601230289 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Fifty-six drug smugglers were executed Monday in the capital and 16 other cities in the latest stage of the toughest carckdown on narcotics rings in Iran's history.

The anti-narcotics headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office said those hanged, including three Afghans and a Pakistani, had been caught with 56,592 kilograms of various kinds of drugs.

The amount of narcotics discovered from the smugglers was only "a fraction of what these traders of death had distributed," the headquarters said in a statement.

Seven were executed in Tehran, 2 in Esfahan, 5 in Orumiyeh, 6 in Bakhtaran, 6 in Mashhad, 4 in Shiraz, 4 in Kerman, 4 in Karaj, 3 in Hamadan, 3 in Zahedan, 3 in Birjand, 2 in Tabriz, 1 in Nahavand, 2 in Qom, 2 in Gorgan, 1 in Rasht, 1 in Varamin.

The number of hanged smugglers, believed the highest in a single day, is being seen as a sign of the authorities firm determination to wipe out the problem.

It comes even before a new tough law comes into effect calling for the death penalty against anyone carrying at least 30 grams of heroin and 5 kilograms of opium on 21 January.

The convicted men had also been individually found guilty of deliberate murder, illegal carrying of arms and ammunition, armed resistance to the disciplinary forces, armed robbery, hostage-taking, distribution of alcoholic drinks and rape.

Majlis Speaker, Khamene'i To Exchange Positions

TA1601092089 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] It is being said in informed circles in Tehran that according to a bilateral agreement between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, it has been decided that Khomeyni's president will resign from his post before the conclusion of his 4-year term next year. This will occur so that Hashemi-Rafsanjani can occupy the presidency sooner and seize total power in the Islamic Republic.

It was also decided that Khamene'i will enter the Majlis by means of the mid-term elections and will be elected Majlis speaker. The same report says that according to this agreement Mir Hoseyn Musavi will be dismissed as prime minister.

Pakistan

Spokesman Comments on Situation in Afghanistan

Pullout Final Phase 'Underway'

BK1501132389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 15 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has started the final phase of its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and the pullout is expected to be completed by February 15, the Pakistani Foreign Office said Sunday.

"The impression is that the troops withdrawal process has started and would be completed by February 15," the deadline under last year's Geneva accords on Afghanistan, a Foreign Office spokesman told a news briefing.

His remarks, the first official confirmation from Pakistan that the final phase of the pullout was under way, followed the breakdown of talks here earlier this month between the Soviet Union and the Afghan resistance.

Top Soviet negotiator Yuliy Vorontsov indicated that the stalemate could delay the troop withdrawal.

But the Pakistani spokesman said Mr. Vorontsov had informed Pakistani authorities last week that Soviet "forces have made all the preparations" to meet the February 15 deadline.

Mr. Vorontsov is a deputy foreign minister and the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union withdrew half of its estimated 115,000 troops by mid-August under the Geneva accords, with the remaining half to be pulled out by February 15, marking the end of Moscow's nine-year old intervention in Afghanistan.

'No Change' in Position

BK1501141489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will abide by the Geneva accords and complete the withdrawal of all its forces from Afghanistan by the fixed date. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that information received so far indicates that the Soviet Union has made all arrangements to complete the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan by the 15th of next month.

The spokesman added that there has been no change in the position of Pakistan on Afghanistan problem. It is up to the Afghan people to decide their own future. Pakistan has never made any effort to meddle in the affairs of Afghan and will not do so in future.

Answering a question, the spokesman said it has always been Pakistan's desire to find a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem and we will continue to work in that direction.

On Shevardnadze Statement

BK1501153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Pakistan has expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will abide by the Geneva accords and complete the withdrawal of all its forces from Afghanistan by the fixed date. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that information received so far indicates that the Soviet Union has made all arrangements to complete the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan by the 15th of next month. [passage omitted]

When asked whether Pakistan would allow the Afghan mujahidin to use its soil for their political struggle after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, the spokesman said the withdrawal of forces would not solve the Afghan problem completely. The Afghan refugees would stay in Pakistan until conditions conducive for their return are created.

Answering another question, he said it has always been Pakistan's desire to find a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem and efforts are continued to set up a consultative group, thus paving the way for establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

When asked to comment on Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's statement in Kabul, the spokesman said it is possible that the Soviet Union will continue military supplies to the Kabul regime even after the withdrawal of its forces.

Comments on Afghan Alliance

BK1601113989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Afghan alliance is expected to finalize in a couple of days its proposal about the composition of a consultative group of Afghans to work for a broad-based government in Kabul. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that mujahidin have already indicated that they are prepared to accept in the consultative group good Muslims from Kabul, but not those associated with the Kabul regime.

The spokesman said the Soviet response will be known once the alliance has announced the composition of the group. He denied any deadlock in the dialogue between the Soviet Union and mujahidin on the formation of a broad-based government in Kabul to replace the present regime.

Pakistan on its behalf fully supported the continuation of the talks between the two sides as their breakup would not be conducive to a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The spokesman said the U.N. secretary general can also play his role in promoting intra-Afghan dialogue as envisaged in both the Geneva accord and the [word indistinct] resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Spokesman on Nuclear Policy, Bhutto PRC Visit

BK1601155289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Afghan alliance is expected to finalize in a couple of days its proposal about the composition of a consultative group to work for a broad-based government in Kabul. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that mujahidin have already said that they are ready to include good Muslims from Kabul in the consultative group, but not those associated with the Kabul regime. [passage omitted]

The spokesman denied that Pakistan has changed its position on nuclear energy or that it has agreed to unilaterally open its nuclear installations for international inspection. He said Pakistan's stand is well-known that the issue should be resolved on a regional basis and that Pakistan will agree to open its installations for inspection provided India also does so. Even if India, for any reason, is not prepared for international inspection of its nuclear installations at this stage, Pakistan will however agree on an understanding on bilateral inspection. [sentence as heard]

The spokesman said Pakistan's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes and it has always supported nuclear nonproliferation.

About the process of normalization of relations with India, the spokesman said a series of meetings between senior officials of the two countries will be held within the next 2 or 3 months.

The spokesman said Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto will pay an official visit to China, the date of which will be decided at an appropriate time.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa on Relations With Soviet Union

BK1601115489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1049 GMT 16 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item; "(APN despatch from Moscow)"]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President R. Premadasa's entry into office was welcomed in the Soviet Union. In an interview to Soviet pressmen after taking office Ranasinghe Premadasa expressed himself for the further development of Soviet-Sri Lanka relations and supported Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts towards the realization of favourable changes both in the Soviet Union and in the world [words indistinct] that "Sri Lanka and the USSR are having friendly ties, and we are cooperating in different fields, culture, sports and technical aid are among these. There is no reason why we should not try to extend this to other sectors in our relations. We have to study these and see that whatever is of mutual benefit to our two countries are both extended and further strengthened".

For its own part, the Soviet Union is ready to further develop mutually advantageous cooperation with Sri Lanka in all fields, beginning with joining efforts to ensure peace and security in Asia and in the whole world and ending with resolving such global tasks as environmental protection, combating diseases, the spread of drugs, etc.

4 Indians, 2 'Terrorists' Killed in North

BK1501114589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1130 GMT 15 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—Four members of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) and two LTTE terrorists were killed in incidents in northern Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that an IPKF officer and a soldier were shot dead in an exchange of fire with LTTE terrorists at Pandithirippu, while two members of a Central Volunteer Force patrol were killed by terrorists at Pooneryn, Jaffna.

IPKF troops located a terrorist camp with dugout trenches at Dharamapuram.

A report from Vavuniya states that two LTTE terrorists were killed and about six others wounded in a shoot out between the IPKF and the LTTE, 9 kilometers west of Vavuniya.

AFP Reports 8 Killed

BK1401155089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 14 (AFP)—An Indian Army officer and a soldier were killed when Tamil rebels opened fire in a bid to escape their custody in northern Sri Lanka, a spokeswoman for the Indian High Commission (embassy) said Saturday.

She said details of the incident, which occurred at Pandithiruppu in the Jaffna Peninsula Friday, were not available. "Apparently they were being held in custody," she said, but could not say whether they were in a detention centre or an Army camp.

Six other people—two provincial militiamen, two rebels and two politicians—died in other violence in Sri Lanka.

The spokewoman could not say how many rebels, believed to be members of the main separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were involved in the escape bid or whether they managed to escape.

India has deployed 45,000 to 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated northeastern region under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord which sought to end a bloody separatist campaign by the minority Tamils.

The LTTE repudiated the accord and have been battling the Indian troops for the past 15 months, refusing to surrender their arms. More than 700 Indians and 2,000 suspected LTTE members have died since then in the continuing war.

In a separate incident, two members of the Civil Volunteer Force, a provincial militia set up by the newly formed north-eastern provincial government to fight the LTTE, were killed in a firefight with the rebels near Pooneryn, also in the north.

Elsewhere, two LTTE members including an area leader, identified by his code-name "Jesse," were killed in an encounter with Indian troops in the Vavuniya sector, the spokeswoman said.

Meanwhile, suspected Sinhalese militants shot dead two organisers of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in Tissamaharama in the island's deep south Friday night, residents and party sources said.

The victims were H.A.H. de Silva and C. Tarunamana. The militants reportedly belonged to the Janata Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

The JVP, which has been carrying on a violent campaign against supporters of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, is accused of killing more than 1,600 political rivals in the last 18 months.

Floods Affect 15,000 in Eastern Province

BK1701103489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0945 GMT 17 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—About fifteen thousand families have been affected by this weeks' floods in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province District of Ampara.

Assistant Director of the Department of Social Services S.S. Wettamuni told LANKAPUVATH today that nearly 8,000 persons have been housed in three temporary camps at Kalmunai and Alayadiwembu.

He said the Department of Social Services provides dry rations to these people. A truck load of dehydrated food stuff for the victims, were also despatched by the department, yesterday.

People living in Kalmunai, Ninthavur, Valachchenai, Akkaraipattu, Alayadiwembu, Thirikkovil, Pothuvil, Lahugala and Damana in the Ampara District were mostly affected by floods.

Mr. Wettamuni added that the flood waters in some areas are now receding.

Meanwhile, official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Minister of Labour and Social Services Joseph Michael Perera and a team of senior officials attached to the Department of Social Services had visited the flood hit areas this morning.

Meanwhile the Sri Lanka Observatory forecasts that scattered rain will be experienced in the eastern region and the eastern slopes of the central hills.

Appeal Made for More U.S. Wheat

BK1301165289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 13 (AFP)—Sri Lanka Friday [13 January] appealed for more wheat imports at concessionary terms from the United States in the wake of an expected shortfall in local rice production this year.

Food and Trade Minsister Lalith Athulathmudali asked the U.S. ambassador here James Spain Friday to consider increasing Sri Lanka's share of wheat on easy terms, Food Ministry Secretary M.D. Pieries said.

Sri Lanka's annual consumption of wheat is estimated at 650,000 tonnes and almost the entire amount is imported from the United States, Mr. Pieries said.

He said Mr. Athulathmudali made the "early general appeal for wheat on concessionary terms" because the authorities expected a shortfall in annual rice production due to unrest in the island last year.

Rice is the staple food for the 16.5 million Sri Lankans and annual production is currently estimated at 1.2 million tonnes, some 400,000 tonnes short of the country's requirement.